



The Hero and Heroism: Then, There and Now

Leeds Beckett University, 12-13 September 2019



Image: graphic representation of Glasgow's Watson Street fire in 1905 by Sarah Taylor Silverwood.
C/o AHRC project: *Forged by Fire: Burns injury and identity in Britain, 1800-2000*

Thursday 12 September

12.00-12.15 Welcome Remarks

12.15-13.15 Keynote lecture

Max Jones (University of Manchester), 'A New History of British Heroes: Propaganda and Privatisation'.

13.15-14.15 Lunch

14.15-15.45 Panel 1A – Civilian Heroes: From the Everyday to the Extraordinary

Simon Wendt (Goethe University Frankfurt), 'Gender, Race, and Everyday Heroism in the United States during the Progressive Era'.

Mike Reeve (Leeds Beckett University), 'The most modest, heroic, and self-sacrificing of all the men of action in this war': Patriotism, 'useful masculinity' and the Special Constabulary during the First World War'.

Rosemary Cresswell (University of Hull), 'First aiders as heroes: from World War Two to the SARAH Act'.

Panel 1B – Heroism on the Home Front in Britain, c. 1939-45

Henry Irving (Leeds Beckett University), 'Reluctant Heroes? British Civilians in the Second World War'.

Jessica Hammett (Birkbeck, University of London), 'Ordinary heroism and emotional control in Second World War civil defence'.

Ellie Matthews (University of Kent), 'The Heroic War Dead: Constructions and Representations of Civilian Death on the Home Front During the Second World War'.

15.45-16.15 Break

16.15-17.45 Panel 2 – Challenging Hero Worship in Modern Britain

Simon Morgan (Leeds Beckett University), 'Rejoicing in Tribulation: Christian Heroism in the Transatlantic Anti-Slavery Movement'.

Joshua Bilton (King's College London), 'Reticent Heroes: Challenging perceptions of the British conscript, 1916-1918'.

Jonathan Reinartz (University of Birmingham), 'My surgeon, the hero: Reconstructing heroism in British burns surgery since 1914'.

Dinner will be at Tharavadu, a Keralan (South Indian) restaurant near to Leeds Station. The table will be booked for around 19.00.

Friday 13 September

09.00–10.00 Panel 3: The Politics of Heroism Today

Greg Judges (Leeds Beckett University), 'The demise of the hero: contemporary public perceptions of heroism in the armed forces'.

Nadia Eldeghidi (University of Westminster), 'Representations of police and military figures in Egyptian cinema post-2014'.

10.00–11.45 Panel 4A – The Imagined Hero and Villain? The Case of the Asylum, c. 1888–1918

Rob Ellis (University of Huddersfield), 'The best abused and most scorned man in London': John McDougall, London County Council and Temperance Reform'.

Rebecca Wynter (University of Birmingham), 'England has many heroes, but none more brave than they': Asylum Staff, Life Saving, and the Colney Hatch Fire'.

Mark Butterfield (Leeds Beckett University), 'Delusions in Conflict: Heroism and Villainy in Asylum Patients' Delusions During the First World War'.

Panel 4B – The Heroic Railwayman? Constructing and Contextualising Railway Heroisms

Mike Esbester (University of Portsmouth), 'Un/recognised railway heroism? Surviving and suffering in a dangerous workplace'.

Oli Betts (National Railway Museum), 'The steam engine driver and industrial heroism'.

Sophie Vohra (University of York), 'Engineering the exemplary: The development of the heroic identities of George Stephenson and Richard Trevithick'.

Ann-Marie Foster (Queen's University Belfast), 'Hierarchies of heroism? Quintinshill, West Stanley, and the First World War'.

11.45–12.00 Break

12.00–13.00 Keynote lecture

Helen Dampier (Leeds Beckett University), 'Saint Emily': The Creation of Emily Hobhouse as a Heroine in South Africa, 1901 – 1926'.

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Fire safety and first aid workshop

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

15.30 Concluding remarks
