



UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Faculté des lettres

**WRITING CONTEMPORARY WARS AND
CONTEMPORARY MILITARIES:
FILM AND LITERATURE OF MILITARY INTERVENTIONS
FROM THE PERSIAN GULF WAR TO THE PRESENT**

11-12 November

Université de Lausanne – Anthropole 5033

This 2-day conference will focus on the way that war has been represented in the United States (and UK) since the First Persian Gulf War in 1990 to the present. Recent events, such as the end of a so-called Forever War with the removal of American troops from Afghanistan, will serve as a focal point from which to explore topics related to war and the military, with a particular interest in issues pertaining to gender. Cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives will also be represented.

Organizers:

Prof. Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet
Ana Gomes Correia

agnieszka.soltysikmonnet@unil.ch
ana.gomescorreia@unil.ch

Keynote speakers:



Helen Benedict

Anna Froula

Helen Benedict is a recipient of the 2021 PEN Jean Stein Grant for Literary Oral History and the Ida B. Wells Award for Bravery in Journalism. She is the author of the new book, *Map of Hope and Sorrow: Stories of Refugees Trapped in Greece* (co-authored with Eyad Awwadawnan), and of 13 previous books, including the award-winning *The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women at War Serving in Iraq*, and the novel, *Wolf Season*. Her writing inspired both a class action suit against the Pentagon on behalf of people sexually assaulted in the military and the 2012 Oscar-nominated documentary, *The Invisible War*. She is a Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, New York. For more information, visit www.helenbenedict.com.

Anna Froula is Associate Professor of Film Studies at East Carolina University, where she founded and continues to run the Veteran to Scholar Boot Camp for student veterans with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has published widely on zombies, cyborgs, and representations of gender and war culture. Froula lives in Greenville, NC, with her husband, dog, and two cats.

Program:

11 November:

13.00 Coffee

13.15 Welcome from organizers

13.30-14.30 Panel 1 – Challenges in Contemporary Wars

- ❖ Prof. Pierre-Héli Monod (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) – After Paper Wars: On Post-Print Counternarratives and Wartime Historiography
- ❖ Prof. Marzena Sokółowska-Paryż (University of Warsaw) – Whose War Trauma?: The Ideology of the Depersonalized Female Rape Victim in Brian De Palma's *Redacted*, *Casualties of War*, and Bruno Dumont's *Flandres*

14.30-14.45 Break

14.45-15.45 Panel 2 – Tensions in Contemporary Militaries

- ❖ Lieven Raymaekers (University of Leuven) – Toxic Masculinities in Contemporary American Submarine Fiction: Deconstructing the Heroic, Patriotic Submariner in *Crimson Tide* and *Hunter Killer*
- ❖ Ana Gomes Correia (University of Lausanne) – Between Fiction and Reality: Female Soldiers and the Burden of Exceptionality

15.45-16.15 Break

16.15-18.00 Keynote 1 (via Zoom)

- ❖ Prof. Helen Benedict (Columbia University) – The Military Has a Man Problem

Dinner / End of first day

12 November

09.30-10.15 Panel 3 – Gender and War (MA Student Panel: 15-minute papers)

- ❖ Diandra Severino – "Is that you John Wayne? Is it me?" : Military Masculinity in the Vietnam War and its Influence on the Figure of the Iraq War Soldier
- ❖ Annette Motta – Masculinity Not Achieved: Desert War Soldiers and the Shadow of Vietnam War Films

10.15 Break

10.45-11.45 Panel 4 – Dual Perspectives on War and Militaries

- ❖ Adela-Livia Catana (Military Technical Academy Ferdinand I Bucharest) – Military Culture and Gender Stereotypes
- ❖ Prof. Dalia Goma (University of Cairo) – “Archipelagic Penal Spaces”: The Iraqi Muslim Woman and the Abject Female Soldier in Helen Benedict’s *Sand Queen*

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.15-15.00 Keynote 2

- ❖ Prof. Anna Froula (East Carolina University) – Restaging the American Frontier in the Middle East

End of conference

Please consult this link: <https://agenda.unil.ch/display/1662881537958> closer to the date for final program adjustments.

Access:



- **Metro (M1):** Take the metro from **Lausanne-Flon** (towards Renens, Gare) or from **Renens, Gare** (towards Lausanne-Flon). Exit at the stop **UNIL-Chamberonne**.

The conference will take place in the **Anthropole** building (the closest to the metro station), on the 5th floor of the building, in **room 5033**. The room is situated in the south-eastern end of the building (signaled by a **red arrow** in the map above).

- If **driving** or **biking**, two parking lots are available on either side of the building (see map above).