



## OXFORD CENTRE FOR LIFE-WRITING

### Call for papers: Wilfred Owen and Beyond

**26 – 28 October 2018**  
**Wolfson College, Oxford**  
**Convened by Dr Kate Kennedy**

*Owen's life was tragically short. Any study of his life is by definition overshadowed by his death and the bitter irony of its timing, at the very end of the war. Unlike some of his lesser discussed contemporaries, such as Ivor Gurney and Isaac Rosenberg,*

*Owen's poetry has been appreciated and analysed by many scholars in previous decades. It remains enduringly popular, and has lost little of its capacity to move and shock its readers. It is taught across the country as part of the National Curriculum, and has become the lens through which we view what, with Owen's help, has been dubbed the most literary war in history.*

*This conference is concerned with Owen's afterlife. How has his work been received, and how has it changed our view of the war? What effect has his verse had on writers, composers and other intellectuals, and how has Owen himself been portrayed, appropriated and discussed posthumously?*

# Keynote speakers

## Professor Douglas Kerr

Douglas Kerr recently retired from Hong Kong University, where he worked for more than thirty years, including service as Head of the English Department and Dean of the Arts Faculty. He taught courses in nineteenth century, modern, and contemporary literature in English. Besides his work on Wilfred Owen, his research interests in literary history include the literature of colonialism in Asia, the literature of war and of travel, and the history of literary modernism. He has published books on George Orwell, on representations of Orient and empire in British writing, and on Arthur Conan Doyle, and is general editor of the twenty-volume Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle (forthcoming from Edinburgh University Press). He is the author of *Wilfred Owen's Voices: Language and Community* (Oxford University Press, 1993)

## Professor Daniel Hipp

Daniel Hipp has an MA in English Literature from Villanova University and PhD in English Literature from Vanderbilt University. He serves as a Professor of English at Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois. He is the author of *The Poetry of Shell Shock* (McFarland, 2004), a study of wartime trauma and healing in the works of Wilfred Owen, Ivor Gurney and Siegfried Sassoon. His research and teaching interests include Modernism and Poetry, with scholarly presentations on the works of Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Frost.

## Dr Kate Kennedy

Kate Kennedy has a PhD from Cambridge University and has held Research Fellowships at Girton College, Cambridge and the English Faculty, Cambridge. She lectures in English and Music, and is Deputy Director of the Oxford Centre for Life-writing at Wolfson College Oxford, where she is Weinrebe Research Fellow in Life-writing. She is author of *Dweller in Shadows: Ivor Gurney – Poet, Composer* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming), and editor of *Literary Britten* (Boydell and Brewer, 2018), and co-editor of *The Silent Morning: Culture, Memory and the Armistice 1918* (Manchester University Press, 2013) and *The First World War: Literature, Music and Memory* (Routledge, 2012). She is a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio 3 on early twentieth century music and literature, and is currently writing a triple biography of Rupert Brooke, W Denis Browne and F S Kelly.

## Dr Santanu Das

Educated in Presidency College, Kolkata and St. John's Cambridge (where he was also a Research fellow), Santanu Das is a literary and cultural historian based at King's College London. He is the author of *Touch and Intimacy in First World War Literature* (Cambridge, 2006) and *Indian Troops in Europe, 1914-1918* (Paris, 2014) and the editor of *Race, Empire and First World War Writing* (2006) and *Cambridge Companion to the Poetry of the First World War* (2014). His latest book, *South Asia and First World War Culture: Literature, Images and Music*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press in 2018 and he is currently editing the *Oxford Book of Empire Writing of the First World War*. He has been involved in several centennial commemorative projects on the war, from radio and television programmes to advising on concerts, exhibitions, and, most recently, dance-theatre.



**The closing date for submissions is Friday 20 October 2017.**

The conference will run from 1 p.m. on Friday 26 October until 12.30 p.m. on Sunday 28 October and there will be four panel sessions, each accommodating the delivery of three twenty-minute papers and a half-hour discussion period.

Papers should relate to the theme of Wilfred Owen's legacy. Proposals are invited and should take the form of **an abstract not exceeding 250 words for a paper of 20 minutes duration.**

Please send a 250 word abstract and a mini-biography (50-100 words) to Dr Kate Kennedy at [oclw@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oclw@wolfson.ox.ac.uk). *Please note that this email address is only for the submission of proposals for papers.*

All other queries about the conference, including registration of interest in attending, should be sent to [vivien@vivienwhelpton.co.uk](mailto:vivien@vivienwhelpton.co.uk).

Notification of acceptance of proposals will be communicated by the opening date for conference registration in January 2018. All submissions will be read and adjudicated by a panel consisting of Dr Kate Kennedy and Dr Santanu Das.

**Visit the conference website for information**



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