

DECODING EUROPEAN HISTORY THROUGH GUNS:

Methodologies and research approaches

PROGRAMME

4th June 2024

9.00 Welcome Breakfast

9.30 Welcome Address - **Caroline Bertonèche** (Professor of British Literature and Head of the International Excellence in the Humanities program – Université Grenoble Alpes)

Introduction of the Workshop - **Andrea Azzarelli** (Postdoc Fellow – MACI – Université Grenoble Alpes)

First session

9.45 **Ned Richardson-Little**, ZZF, Potsdam

Illicit Arms Trafficking and the Blurry Global Boundaries of Germany

10.15 Q&A

10.30 **Simon Ball**, University of Leeds

Guns as Razor Blades

11.00 Q&A

11.15 Coffee Break

11.30 **Timothée Celeyron**, Université Grenoble Alpes

The Lexicon of Weapons in Historical Chronicles: How Can Phraseology Define a Textual Genre?

12.00 Q&A

Second session

14.30 **Assumpta Castillo Cañiz**, Universitat de Girona

Arming (Only) Upright Citizens: Sources and Methodologies for Addressing Civilian Disarmament and Rearmament by Public Authorities (Spain, 19th-20th Centuries)

15.00 Q&A

15.15 Alexandre Dupont, Université de Strasbourg, IUF

Political Internationalisms and Arms Smuggling: Productive Entanglements

15.45 Q&A

16.00 Coffee break

Third session

16.15 Matteo Millan, Università di Padova

Guns in the Hands of Law-abiding Civilians: Gun Control, Gun Cultures and the Making of Modern Europe

16.45 Q&A

17.00 Andrea Azzarelli, Université Grenoble Alpes

Navigating Violence: Police Forces and Guns in European Ports (France, England, Italy; 1890-1939)

17.30 Q&A

5th June 2024

9.30 Welcome Breakfast

10.00 Open Debate

Collective open discussion for all participants, introduced by a brief summary of the presentations

Andrea Azzarelli

Navigating Violence: Police Forces and Guns in European Ports (France, England, Italy; 1890-1939)

The evolution of arms control is intricately linked to shifts in policing strategies. Theoretically confined to national boundaries, European law enforcement agencies were tasked with controlling a burgeoning arms market that transcended borders, becoming increasingly globalized and accessible. This paper underscores how the operational methodologies and perspectives of police units stationed in pivotal European ports illuminate the development of collective societal and public feelings regarding firearms, leading to novel security doctrines, while influencing the trajectory of European history.

Simon Ball

Guns as Razor Blades

The paper will argue that for academic historians the study of small arms will almost certainly be a point of entry into wider historical problems. Specifically, the paper will explore how a fusion of international, transnational and business history can enrich our understanding of the twentieth century international system. The study of small arms can make narrow, but long and deep cuts through archives (hence the razor blade analogy): examples will be drawn from the speaker's upcoming book: *Killing Rules: Assassination since Sarajevo* (London: Yale University Press, 2025).

Assumpta Castillo Cañiz

Arming (Only) Upright Citizens: Sources and Methodologies for Addressing Civilian Disarmament and Rearmament by Public Authorities (Spain, 19th-20th Centuries)

The aim of my talk is to offer a synthesis of sources and methodologies to be used to address the role played by the state and its institutions in terms of gun control policies, civilian disarmament policies and its involvement in possible dynamics of "selective rearmament" of the population in the decades between the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries.

Timothée Celeyron

The Lexicon of Weapons in Historical Chronicles: How Can Phraseology Define a Textual Genre?

The aim of the presentation is to introduce my research: my PhD focuses on the lexicon of weapons in French historical chronicles. The first goal is to examine the use of collocations about weapons and the evolution over a period from classical Latin to modern French. And the main goal is to observe if phraseology and corpus linguistics are able to define the textual genre of historical chronicles: indeed corpus linguistics offers new opportunities for textual studies. Firstly, I will present the methodology used to reach those goals, and the corpus I am building at the moment. Secondly, I will present some results obtained thanks to two current corpora.

Alexandre Dupont

Political Internationalisms and Arms Smuggling: Productive Entanglements

My research into transnational royalist networks at the time of the Carlist Wars (1833-1840 and 1872-1876) led me to examine the arms smuggling that benefited the Spanish absolutists in their struggle. Viewed as a form of transnational solidarity, arms smuggling is a particularly interesting subject, as it allows us to make history of transnational political solidarity from below, focused on the diversity of actors involved, on the links between politics and illegality, on the geography of the networks of arms trafficking and on the links with the technical, economic and military modernity of the nineteenth century Atlantic world.

Matteo Millan

Guns in the Hands of Law-abiding Civilians: Gun Control, Gun Cultures and the Making of Modern Europe

My paper aims to present the aims, rationale, methods, as well as the foreseeable difficulties and hiccups of a new ERC project that I will be coordinating over the next few years. The project will investigate the lawful possession and use of small firearms by law-abiding civilians in Western Europe between 1870 and 1970.

During this century-long period, Europe underwent a silent revolution that transformed it from a continent where the use of firearms by law-abiding civilians was commonplace, to a place where gun control measures and the cultural depoliticization of firearms were the norm. The project will use comparative and transnational approaches and a variety of methodologies - such as security studies, advertising and guns as material objects - to understand the causes of this transformation and its historical impact on the making of modern Europe.

Ned Richardson-Little

Illicit Arms Trafficking and the Blurry Global Boundaries of Germany

In examining the history of arms trafficking, one area of methodological complexity is that of nationality. To which country are illicit arms attributed when they are seized and which state has the responsibility to suppress traffic? The proliferation of multinational networks dominated by front companies in the late 20th century designed to obscure the path of traffic and legal responsibility was already presaged by Germany in the interwar period. Stripped of the right to produce weapons of war, German companies branched out to produce outside of the country in the Weimar Era and arms dealers began selling surplus sourced from around the continent. Controversies over arms smuggled through an embargo to the Chinese Civil War in particular highlight the ambiguities inherent to anti-trafficking systems built around clearly defined national industries.