

## **Panel Proposal - Writing Global Veterans**

Associate Professor Martin Crotty (University of Queensland)  
Professor Neil Diamant (Dickinson College)  
Professor Mark Edele (The University of Melbourne)

This panel will be a series of three interlinked papers examining the first attempt (that we are aware of) to write a history of veterans across multiple national contexts and conflicts.

In October 2020 Cornell University Press published our book, titled *The Politics of Veteran Benefits in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative History*. While previous histories of veterans have tended to focus on single countries, and in a few cases have looked at comparisons across two countries, we have attempted to break new ground by embracing a wider variety and greater number of national case studies across the major conflicts of the first half of the twentieth century. In doing so, and in combining historical methods with theoretical insights from political science, we were able to reach more generalised conclusions about what shapes veterans' fortunes after conflicts.

Our panel will examine the origins and background to our collaborative work, will discuss our key findings, will consider some of the difficulties and challenges facing scholars working across disciplinary and national boundaries in examining veterans' history. We will suggest some further directions for the historical study of veterans that would build on and extend our contribution to the field. The papers will be delivered in the following sequence.

We envisage 15-minute papers with 45 minutes for discussion.

### **Professor Neil Diamant**

Origins, Background and Methodological Challenges in Multidisciplinary Comparative Veterans' Studies

### **Associate Professor Martin Crotty**

Veterans in Ten States in the Age of Total War – Our Key Findings

### **Professor Mark Edele**

Future Directions in Comparative Veterans' Studies

### **Contributors**

Professor **Neil Diamant** is based at Dickinson College, Pennsylvania, where he researches law and society in Asia (with particular reference to China, Japan, and India), civil-military relations in China, patriotism in comparative perspective, and Chinese constitutionalism. He also teaches courses on Israeli politics and Zionism. Professor Diamant is the author or co-author of three books, (with Martin Crotty and Mark Edele) *The Politics of Veteran Benefits in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative History* (Cornell University Press, 2020); *Embattled Glory: Veterans, Military Families and the Politics of Patriotism in China, 1949-2007*

(Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), and *Revolutionizing the Family: Politics, Love, and Divorce in Urban and Rural China, 1949-1968* (University of California Press, 2000).

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Associate Professor **Martin Crotty** teaches History at the University of Queensland, Australia. His research interests include war and Australian society, sports history, masculinity, and education. He is the author of *Making the Australian Male: Middle-Class Masculinity, 1870-1920* (2001) and (with Edele and Diamant) *The Politics of Veteran Benefits in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative History* (Cornell University Press, 2020). He has also published a variety of journal articles, book chapters, and edited collections, including *The Great Mistakes of Australian History* (2006), *Turning Points in Australian History* (2008) and *Anzac Legacies: Australians and the Aftermath of War* (2010).

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Professor **Mark Edele** is a historian of the Soviet Union and its successor states, in particular Russia. A former Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow, he is the inaugural Hansen Professor in History at The University of Melbourne and Deputy Head of the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies (SHAPS). He was trained as a historian at the Universities of Erlangen, Tübingen, Moscow and Chicago. His publications include *Soviet Veterans of the Second World War* (2008), *Stalinist Society* (2011), *Stalin's Defectors* (2017), *Shelter from the Holocaust: Rethinking Jewish Survival in the Soviet Union* (with Atina Grossmann and Sheila Fitzpatrick, 2017), *The Soviet Union. A Short History* (2019), *Debates on Stalinism* (2020); and, with Martin Crotty and Neil Diamant, *The Politics of Veteran Benefits in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative History* (2020). His latest book, entitled *Stalinism at War: The Soviet Union in World War II*, will be published in 2021. He teaches the histories of the Soviet Union, of the Second World War, and of dictatorship and democracy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

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