

Call for abstracts on sociological / socio-historical study of war and violence.

XIX ISA - WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY
Toronto, Canada - July 15th to 20th 2018

WARFARE, DISTANCE AND 'CIVILIZING PROCESS'



DEADLINE : September 20th 2017

Abstracts (300 words max.) have to be submitted at the following address :

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Session10152.html>

Then you will be asked to register through a form.

RC 56 : Historical Sociology

Figurational Research Network – Norbert Elias Foundation

Call Authors / Organizers :

- **Dieter REICHER**, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Graz, Austria.
- **Ilan LEW**, Research Associate in Sociology, University of Geneva
& PhD Candidate CADIS – École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris.

Combat at a distance is not new and precedes what Elias called "the civilizing process", but the development and generalization of firearms in warfare taking place between 1300 and 1600 seems, remarkably, to coincide with it.

The relations between the "process of civilization" and new types of weapons are striking and ambiguous. On the one hand, these transformations enabled killing on a new dimension and scale. And since the World Wars not only soldiers but also great parts of the civilian population fall victim to mass killings because of new types of weapons. On the other hand, fencing, suffocating, stabbing, seem to lose their importance in the killing from a distance. The atomic bomb kills millions but it needs only a person pushing a button. Drone warfare is also an example of what may call ironically "civilised warfare".

There is no need for the spontaneity, affectivity and other forms of fierce emotions that one could find on the battlefields of the past.

This session invites sociologists, socio-historians and historians to question the transformation of the manners of making war and violence in its complexity. The intervention could consider the proxemic dimension (Hall, 1966) of a battle, but also the representation of violence at any given time, or the fact that some modalities of violence are considered less "respectable" than others, paradoxically independently of the number of victims they claim.

References :

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Image credits :

1 - © Denis Beaudet (2013) La Bataille d'Azincourt de 1415, côté français.

2 - "Compagnie de Cycliste en action" Carte Postale de la Guerre de 14.

<http://lagrandeguerre.blog.lemonde.fr/files/2013/12/049GUEMV.jpg>

3 - 14 kiloton atomic explosion, from a 1951 US nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site ©NNSA - US Gov.