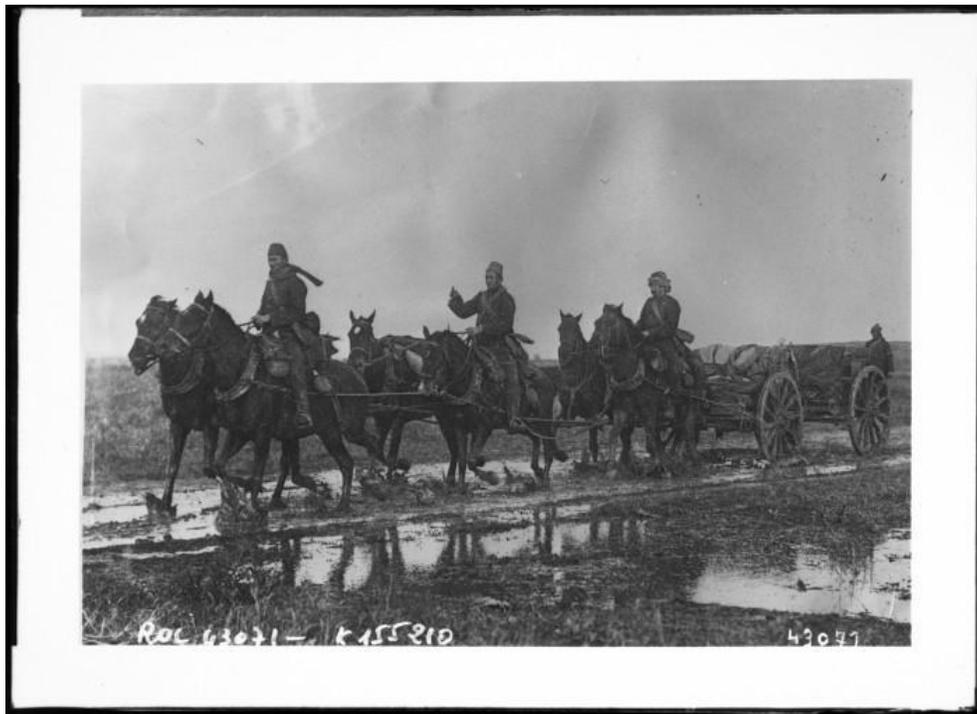




CALL FOR PAPERS

Mobility and displacement during the First World War (1914-1923)



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Turkish Artillery, 1914. (Agence Rol. BNF Gallica, public domain).

The First World War, often regarded as the epitome of static warfare was, however, characterized by multiple circulations and constant mobility, from the first days of the conflict well into the post war period. Soldiers and civilians of various nationalities took to the road in high numbers either to go fighting or to flee from the different fronts, in an improvised or organised manner. Circulations in these itineraries took diverse forms, short-distance repeated movements (from the front to the rear during leaves for example) or mobility on very long distances – sometimes even without return.

This workshop focuses on the material organization of mobility (impact on transportation networks or supply routes) and the political implications of these movements (forced relocations, population transfers). The workshop also touches on the individual or collective experience of displacement.

The workshop's program follows three main lines of enquiry:

- Mobility and distance: The global or European scale of the war made displacement a decisive factor for the belligerent nations: movement between front and rear, from one warring country to another and in the relations between Europe and the colonial world. The logistical and economic issues as well as the perception of distances by soldiers and displaced civilians constitute an important aspect of war mobility in an age of industrial warfare.
- Mobility and violence: State and non-state violence was also the source of spontaneous or coerced mobility. These population movements saw different types of violence occur (physical, economic, symbolic) which can continue after the conflict is officially over. As in the case of sieges, which enclose individuals in a space of violence and penury, mobility – forced or spontaneous, temporary or definitive – provoked an increased vulnerability of populations or soldiers in transit.
- Mobility and territories: The population fluxes generated by the redrawing of borders and social or economic transformations caused by the war often implied a redefinition of local identities on different scales. This process was prolonged after the end of the fighting. Military and civilian mobility, provisory or long-term, marked the territories and their resources and disrupted the legacies from the pre-war period.

This approach centred on mobility aims to move beyond the national framework which still largely shapes studies on the First World War. In this respect, it seems fruitful to examine the war in terms of spaces, trajectories and circulations. We will favour new approaches on the conflict which rethink the links between front and home front, home country and colonial territories, centres and peripheries.

Applications for the one-day workshop will include:

- a short CV
- a proposal (500 words maximum) in French or English which outlines the methodology and the sources used

Applications should be sent to mobility.sciencespo@gmail.com before June 15, 2014. We will notify applicants at the end of June.

The conference will take place at the Institute for Political Sciences (Sciences Po), in Paris, on October 21, 2014. The working languages of the workshop will be French and English. Participants will submit their papers (5000 to 8000 words) no later than October 1, 2014.

Participants are encouraged to ask for financial support from their home institution. Limited funding will be offered to participants who travel far to cover their accommodation and transportation costs.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: mobility.sciencespo@gmail.com

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Paul Lenormand - Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po

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