

5th Veterans in Society Conference: 'Veteran Identity, Advocacy, Ambiguity,
and Representations'

March 22-24, 2020

JC Penny Building/Conference Center at the University of Missouri, St. Louis
1 University Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63121

We invite scholars at all levels—in and out of academia—to cross national, cultural, historical, and disciplinary boundaries to reflect on the theme of “Veteran Identity, Advocacy, Ambiguity, and Representations.” Below are just a handful of questions elicited by the 2020 conference.

We welcome submissions that address or trouble:

- How are veteran changing—or how have they changed—popular narratives within military and civilian cultures?
- Who is serving now and what impacts will that have on the future?
- What role has veteran-ness had on civilian service and public affairs?
- Who are veterans; how well are veterans who served in peacetime understood and/or represented in scholarship, creative arts, and culture?
- If the binary distinction between veteran as hero and veteran as damaged appears is breaking down, what alternative constellations of identities could be usefully revisited and what new ones are emerging?
- Why we need veteran studies, will it become rooted in academia, and if so what will that look like?
- How effective, and in what form, is or has been, advocacy for education, employment, health and well-being for veterans and their families?
- In what ways and how intensively do (which?) veterans engage in civil society/public affairs? In what respects is their engagement different from civilians with similar demographics? In what respects are engaged veterans more similar to other veterans across national or historical boundaries than they are to their civilian counterparts?
- If we love our veterans but hate our politicians, do veterans in elected office demonstrate distinctive styles of political behavior and/or lead to distinctive political outputs?
- In what ways (or how) are veterans marginalized by their societies?
- How have veterans' interactions with their communities been represented in literature, drama, and cinema, including works that are not overtly “about” veterans?
- How, if at all, are civic motives at work when veterans enlist in their countries' regular military or reserves?
- Whom or what causes have veterans actively engaged in, from localized good works (Team Rubicon) to revolution (Mussolini)?
- What is known about the families of veterans—not only those who struggle to be supportive, but also those who help reinforce family traditions of military service?

Session Types

We encourage and are open to a variety of presentation styles, including but not limited to:

- Individual Presentations: 75- to 100-word abstract, 250-word proposal

- Panel Presentation, with 3 to 4 presenters: 150- to 200-word abstract, 750-word proposal
- Poster Presentations, by individual or collaborative presenters (1 poster per submission): 150- to 200-word abstract
- Roundtable Discussion, with 4 or more presenters: 150- to 200-word abstract, 500-word proposal
- Works-in-Progress: back by popular demand, we have scheduled a workshop session specifically for sharing and refining early-stage research and/or engagement projects with kindred scholars and potential collaborators: 500-word proposal (works-in-progress submissions will not undergo peer review)

Submission Guidelines

All submissions should conform to a widely accepted citation style that will be intelligible to an interdisciplinary audience (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago).

Unless otherwise noted above (under session type), proposals must include:

- a cover letter providing contact information for the author(s), title, and format of the proposed work,
- a brief abstract suitable for use in the conference program, and
- a more detailed proposal outlining the nature and contribution of the work you intend to present

Abstracts and detailed proposals must be attached in a separate file (or, if mailed, a separate sheet of paper) from the cover letter and formatted for blind review: no author names, affiliations, or other personally identifiable information. Please respect word counts for abstracts by desired session type.

Submit proposals to **VIS20@UMSL.EDU**

Important Dates

- Submissions open: June 1, 2019
- Proposal Deadline: November 4, 2019
- Notification of acceptance: Early December 2019

Logistics

Information about fees, hotels, and the like will be posted on the [Veterans Studies Association's](#) conference site.

Contact

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