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Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies

Special Issue Call for Papers

Medical History and the Global Wars of the 20th Century: A Southern African Perspective

Guest editors: Clement Masakure and Karen Horn

The First and Second World Wars defined the 20th Century. Although far removed from the main battle theatre, the Southern African countries contributed to these significant conflicts. As such, Africans from all walks of life were affected and their lives were impacted on social, economic and political levels. Current historiography provides an understanding of how Africans – black and white alike, from different countries in Southern Africa participated in war from a military aspect. Thanks to a growing body of work on the socio-political and economic impact of the war on societies in Southern Africa, our understanding of the lived experience is also expanding.

However, there are themes that remain under-researched in the history of both World Wars and Southern Africa. Indeed, an area that needs further research revolves around health care during and immediately after the war. In particular, the experiences of combatants and health care providers need rethinking, as do various aspects of health care in the theatre of the war and at home in the aftermath of war. These aspects range from military medicine, military hospitals, and military nursing services to mobilization of medical resources during war to post-war rehabilitation of combatants.

This special issue seeks to highlight research that raises new questions about Medical History and Southern Africans during the First and Second World Wars in the African theatre of war. We are particularly interested in new work on individual experiences or a group experience during and in the immediate post-war period that illuminates any of the following themes:

- Military medicine
- Military nursing
- Medical care on the battlefield
- Innovation in military medicine/military nursing/methods
- Military hospitals at home and the battlefield
- Biographies of military medical/nursing personnel/medics
- The mental health impact of war on combatants
- Post-war medical rehabilitation
- The war's impact on providing health services to civilians at home.

If you are interested in proposing a paper on these or any other topic around health care and the First and / or Second World War, please contact Dr Clement Masakure (MasakureC@ufs.ac.za) or Dr Karen Horn (HornK@ufs.ac.za)

Target dates

27 October 2023 - Call for abstracts

8 January 2024 - Abstract submissions

1 February 2024 - Notification of acceptance of abstracts

April 2024-Online workshop on draft articles

31 July 2024 - Submission of full articles and send out for double-blind peer review

30 September 2024 - Return of peer-reviewed articles

31 December 2024 - Submission of final versions of all articles