**Thematic session 2**

***War and labour coercion***

**Organisers:**

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**Chair:**

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War radically transforms societies. This session invites researchers to analyse the war-induced change in one particular domain of the society: labour relations. The pervasive militaristic values start to play a bigger role in the areas of society where usually they are not important, and the labour market is reorganised to cope with the shortage of labour force and the military production. This accommodation to the war conditions happens in a variety of ways. It can manifest in the growth of the state control over labour and loss of rights for the free workers, involvement of the new groups of labourers previously marginal to the labour market (e.g. women or children), and installation of special labour regimes for prisoners of war and other groups (ethnic minorities, colonial populations, convicts, *etc.*).

The body of literature on militarisation is extensive and versatile, but certain aspects are still missing. We would like to contribute to the existing debates by exploring the possibilities of chronological and geographical comparative studies. Questioning the traditional chronology of war allows to trace its long-lasting consequences and also to take into account the militarisation of societies not involved in war in conventional sense (e.g. USSR in 1930s, Spain in the 1940s and 1950s). The case studies of the participants will be used as a departure point for further reflection on the methodology of comparative approaches.