CALL FOR ARTICLES

War-disabled people: the continuing 1914-1918 war

World War I led to six to seven million maimed men at international level. In Europe, governments afterwards had to face an issue which varied in magnitude in different countries. In each of the following five countries, Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, more than 800 000 war disabled men had to be provided for, whereas other countries (Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian Kingdom, United States) had to deal with 100 000 to 350 000 men disabled by the conflict. In all these countries, war-disabled men formed organizations whose political positioning was often adversarial (apolitical, communist, social catholic, etc.). Because they had so many members, and because they spoke for war victims, they became influential partners of public authorities. Generally, these associations did not challenge existing social attitudes but prided themselves in promoting the sacrifice of soldiers and their wounded members1.

Almost all war disabled were men, a majority of them being between 20 to 40 years old, however, there were a few war disabled female nurses too. Many encountered difficulties in returning to their agricultural, artisanal, or industrial jobs. Although they had been in working life for only 10 or 20 years, a number of them were forced to consider another career to provide for their families. To solve the problem of their continuing employment, in many European countries (Austria, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy) associations demanded that all employers whether public or private were forced to hire a certain proportion of disabled men. Therefore several European countries (Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Poland) adopted legal measures between 1916 and 1924 imposing an obligation on private and public companies to employ war-wounded workers. The first studies on war wounded people focused on public policies, legislation and mobilization of organizations. More recent studies focus on life experience, on the representation of war disabled in media2 and on other aspects such as the pain associated with lost limbs3. Many of these studies are centered on the local or national level (France4, Great Britain, Italy5, Belgium6, Germany7, Austria,  

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7 Heather R. Perry, Recycling the disabled : Army, medicine, and modernity in WWI Germany, Manchester University Press, 2014.
Very few collective or individual books\textsuperscript{8} plus the recent special issue of the \textit{First World War Studies} journal\textsuperscript{10} allow crossing view points on several national cases. Historians have started adopting transnational perspectives on the matter\textsuperscript{11}. This interest is likely to develop considering the increasing exchange of experience and data between associations and medical doctors from different countries.

However, a vast majority of these studies focus on the war and post-war period itself, overlooking mid- and long-term consequences of the war on the life of individuals. It seems therefore necessary to foster the production of new research focused on war-wounded people during the inter-war period at local, national and international levels. A number of issues deserve attention:

- Daily life of war wounded people returning to civilian life
- Feelings and emotions (resentment, pride, etc.)
- The impact of high social visibility of war-wounded people on the social representation of disability
- Work, economic and family situation
- Gender and physical, psychological and sexual violence
- Transnational dimension of organizations mobilization and the making of rehabilitation policies for war wounded


Articles selected after blind peer reviewing will be published in a special issue of \textit{ALTER-European Journal of Disability Research} in commemoration of WW1, end of 1919.

\textsuperscript{8} Magowska, Anita, "The Unwanted Heroes : War invalids in Poland after World War I", \textit{Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences}, vol. 69 (2), 2014, pp. 185-220.
\textsuperscript{10} Pieter Verstraete, Martina Salvante and Julie Anderson, "Commemorating the disabled soldier : 1914-1940", \textit{First World War Studies}, 2015, p. 1-7