

**Project Title****War, Peace and Society: Perspectives on Activism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries  
(RDF16/HUM/LAQUA)****Project Description**

How did societies cope with military conflict and its aftermath? How did they deal with internal tensions and the ways in which the latter may have translated into violent conflict? We are seeking PhD projects that will address these kinds of questions by examining conflict in modern society and the ways in which activists have engaged with it. The project may explore these issues by dealing with individuals who were actively involved in promoting a more peaceful future by non-violent means or, conversely, by investigating groups that sought to legitimise the use of violent action. Projects may also be concerned with investigating the ways in which activist engagement with issues of war and peace has been commemorated in popular and political cultures. While projects may involve any geographical area and we encourage proposals with a transnational dimension, the expectation is that focus will be on Europe (including Britain) and/or the US. Similarly, while we expect the project to be anchored in history, we are also interested in proposals that might take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of War, Peace and Society and therefore align with the mission of Northumbria's newly established Institute for the Humanities and its associated Multidisciplinary Research Centre.

The PhD candidate will be affiliated to Northumbria University's 'Histories of Activism' research group. Since its foundation in early 2011, the group has organised a range of academic events as well as preparing joint publications (notably themed issues of the *Journal of European History* and the *European Review of History* in 2014). It has also launched a project that draws attention to radical activism in the North East: 'Mapping Tyneside Radicalism' (<http://radicaltyneside.org/>). Our postgraduate members have played an active role in the research group, for instance by organising workshops on 'social history and community' (2012), 'history beyond borders' (2013), the 'chances and challenges of digital history' (2014) and a forthcoming event on 'tracing lives across borders' (2016).

The research group has expertise in examining a wide range of networks and movements that articulated an alternative vision of the world in which they lived – from black radicalism and feminism to pacifism and co-operation. Several of the group's members share thematic concerns: for example, examining the relationship between politics and protest or investigating the interplay between activism and international politics.

Major recent investment in resources to support research in this area include the following: The Guardian/Observer Digital Archives; digital collections on 'The Sixties: Primary Document and Personal Narratives' and on 'Popular Culture in Britain and America, 1950 -1975); material on the First World War (digital resource 'The First World War: Personal Narratives' and microfilm collection 'The First World War: A Documentary Record'); microfilm records of Anti-Slavery International and the Anti-Slavery Reporter (nineteenth and twentieth centuries); microfilm records of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); microfilm records of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), 1958–1970.

Northumbria has a large and lively postgraduate community in the Humanities. Our students benefit from generous research space and resources in the recently expanded Glenamara Centre as well as the space and resources provided by the new Institute of the Humanities. PhD students develop a portfolio of skills and competencies through the Humanities Training Programme, the Teaching Shadowing

Scheme, the annual PhD conference and the Graduate School's Professional Development and Research Training Programme. In addition, each student is provided with a research allowance for conference attendance and travel as well as funding to support the organisation and development of research networks, conferences and seminar series.

**Faculty**

Arts, Design and Social Sciences

**Department** [+ optional link to centre web page]

Humanities

**Principal Supervisor** [name and title required for advert]

Dr. Daniel Laqua

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/academic-departments/humanities/research/history-research/history/histories-of-activism/>

Deadline for applications: 18 March 2016

Interview date (if known): w/c 2 May 2016

Start Date: 3 October 2016