



Writing the World Wars

University College Cork

24-25 April 2020

Keynote Speakers:

Prof Ruth Ben-Ghiat, New York University

Prof Barbara Meazzi, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis

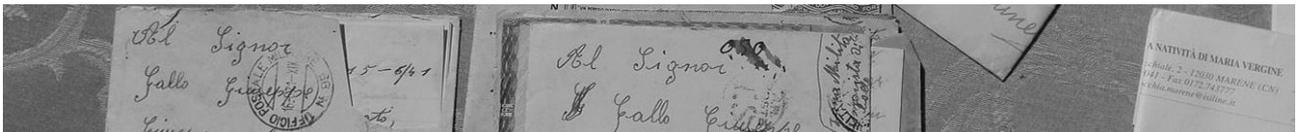
Prof Phil Cooke, University of Strathclyde

Prof Federico Faloppa, University of Reading

Organizers:

Giovanni Pietro Vitali and Silvia Ross

Department of Italian, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures,
University College Cork

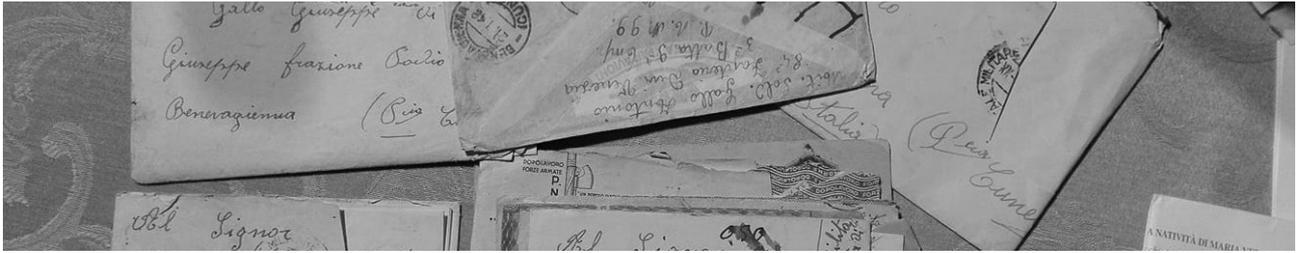


The World Wars are two historical events that were characterized by an abundance of documents written by individuals. The upsurge of popular writings concerned all countries involved in the two Wars. These documents are important both historically and linguistically. The study of writings on war has always been extremely important but it has recently found a new vigour due to the recent centenary of the First World War, and because of the emergence of new theories, such as: gender and conflict theories, or the development of new tools, for example, Digital Humanities.

Our aim is to take stock of the state of studies on writing the two World Wars.

The focus of this conference is to start from a comparative and multilingual perspective, and then move on to the specific case of Italy. These two days of study stem from an MSCA-funded project, titled *Last Letters from the World Wars: Forming Italian Language, Identity and Memory in Texts of Conflict*.

The first day will be devoted to contributions— to be delivered in English – on writing about the two World Wars in a wider, multilingual and transnational context (e.g. British, French, Spanish, German etc.). The subsequent day will be dedicated to Italian studies and papers in either English or Italian will be accepted. The decision to dedicate the second day to the Italian context is linked to the desire to celebrate April 25th, the anniversary of the liberation from Nazi occupation in Italy.



By war writing we mean primarily:

- **Popular writings** such as letters, diaries and reports.
- **Literature** that takes the world wars as its topic.
- **Professional and technical writings** such as: legal texts, war bulletins, the press and periodicals.

Papers will also be considered on the following subject areas:

- **Audio** and **video** documents, such as documentaries or films dedicated to the two war events.
- **Graphic** and **artistic** representations, such as propaganda posters or illustrations in newspapers and photographs.

All proposed communications will be presented in a plenary session format in order to promote exchange. This conference is designed to reflect practically on the interdisciplinary study of the two wars across several disciplines.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

The organizers invite submissions for 20-minute presentations to be delivered in English (first and second day) or Italian (only on the second day). Please send a 300-word abstract, contact details and a brief bio by **Tuesday, 10 March 2020** to Giovanni Pietro Vitali – giovanni.vitali@ucc.ie –and Silvia Ross - s.ross@ucc.ie.

Please note: there will be a fee of €30 to help defray catering costs. Postgraduates, ECRs and the unwaged will not be charged a fee.

Conference web site: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/italian/conferencesexhibitions/>

Sponsored by the Department of Italian, UCC and the Centre for the Advanced Study of Languages and Cultures, UCC.

