

Saturday 28 May 2016

USIAS Excursion - La Grande Guerre

The First World War, now more than a century ago, has traditionally been studied from political, diplomatic and military perspectives, and generally from a national angle. In the past two decades, the study of the First World War has been ambitiously refocused and renewed. Comparative transnational historical research and historical research from a social and cultural perspective have deepened and transformed our understanding of “La Grande Guerre” in important new ways.



In 2015, two USIAS Fellowships and one USIAS-FRIAS Fellowship were awarded to historians studying hitherto unexamined dimensions of the period in which the war of 1914-1918 took place. These are ambitious, original projects, in which a very wide range of historical evidence is being examined. Related to these projects, two round table conferences will take place on 27 and 28 May 2016 (see information on the USIAS website).



On this occasion, a **USIAS excursion** is organised, on **Saturday 28 May 2016** to visit the remnants of the First World War in the Vosges Mountains. The Vosges formed an important frontline, being on the border between Germany and France. War in this mountainous environment was especially challenging given the geographical and weather conditions. The war left profound traces in the landscape, in terms of the “infrastructure of war” — trenches, bunkers, logistic structures, but also graveyards, and later, memorials.

All USIAS Fellows are invited to this unique opportunity to see the remnants of the Great War in the company of internationally renowned historians. In addition, Fellows are welcome to participate in one or both of the round tables. The excursion consists of a 3-4 hour walk under the guidance of Florian Hensel, historian and specialist in the area of Alsace-Lorraine and the First World War. The walk will include, among other things, the *Col du Calvaire*, *Tête des Faux*, and *Étang du Devin*, sites of important battles, fortifications, graveyards and memorials.

- 7h15 Departure by bus from Strasbourg
(Hotel Maison Rouge)
- 9h15 Excursion, departure from col du Calvaire
- 13h Lunch, Ferme-Auberge L'Étang du Devin
- 17h Back in Strasbourg

Participation is free, but registration is necessary and the number of places is limited (first come first go). Please register by sending a mail to info@usias.fr

