International Conference
CAPTIVITY IN WAR:
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

23/24 MARCH 2018
UNIVERSITY OF BERN
LÄNGGASSSTRASSE 49
CH-3012 BERN
UNITOBLER, ROOM F-121

Pictures (all creative commons):
Front: German POWs in Aachen, October 1944
Back: Korean soldiers and Chinese captives during the First Sino-Japanese War, 1894–1895
American POWs during the Bataan Death March, 1942
Confederate prisoners at Gettysburg, 1863
Captivity in War: a Global Perspective

This conference will explore various issues relating to captivity in war in the 19th and 20th centuries. In recent years, the study of prisoners of war has increasingly attracted scholarly attention. However, it remains a neglected topic when it comes to research on wars, which often focuses either on the conduct of war itself or on the home front, with prisoners of war fitting in neither of those categories. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics currently working on various aspects of captivity in war during the 19th and 20th centuries, and to discuss and explain how captivity in war varied and evolved during this period.

The conference is open to all and free of charge. If you would like to attend, please E-Mail tamara.braun@vtg.admin.ch.

23 March 2018

09:30 Opening Remarks: Captivity in War: a Global Perspective (Organisers)

09:45 Keynote: German and Austrian War Prisoners in America, 1942–1946 (Arnold Krammer, Texas A&M University)

10:45–11:00 Break

11:00–12:30 Panel 1: Captivity, Law, and Supranational Institutions (Chair: Alexander Krethlow)

-Captivity, Ransoming and the Scramble for Africa in the Short 19th Century in West Africa (Roy Doron, Winston-Salem State University)
-Imagining or Reflecting War? The Development of International Law Protecting Civilian and Military Captives as well as Refugees from and in Captivity in the Age of Two World Wars, 1899–1951 (Daniel Marc Segesser, University of Bern)
-Fighting for Respect and Dignity in the Darkest of Times: The Role of Honour-Based Practices in POW Regimes during the First World War (Jasper Heinzen, University of York)
-Captivity in Ottoman Lands: Humanitarian Aid of Ottoman Red Crescent Society during First World War (Ceren Aygül, Johannes Gutenberg-University / IEG-Mainz)

12:30–13:30 Lunch Break

13:30–15:00 Panel 2: Confinement Conditions and Camp Life (Chair: Tanja Bührer)

-Spaces of Confinement, Spaces of Resistance: Prisoners of War in Britain, 1793–1815 (Anna McKay, University of Leicester)
-Conflicting Orders: Class, Race and Rank as Categories of Internment in German East Africa, 1914–1919 (Daniel Steinbach, University of Exeter)
-Same-Sex Desire in Captivity: German POWs in the United States, 1942–1946 (Matthias Reiss, University of Exeter)
-The Internment of 15,000 Jews in the Hongkew Designated Area of Shanghai from 1943 to 1945 (Meron Medzini, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

15:15–16:00 End of Conference Discussion