



# Western

Centre for Research on  
Migration and Ethnic Relations

## Winter Colloquium Series 2013



### **Dr. Lynne Taylor**

Dr. Lynne Taylor is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Waterloo. She did her MA at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her PhD at the University of Michigan. Her field of research, broadly speaking, is the study of state-society relations in the context of war, with western Europe as the source of her case studies. Having spent many years examining issues of resistance and collaboration, and everything in between, during World War II, she has shifted focus to the displaced persons (or non-German refugees) crisis in Germany at the end of WWII.

## **Displaced Persons in Post-WWII Germany: Stalemate - the battle over the child search operation between the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the American Military Occupation Government (OMGUS)**

Initially, as the various Allied powers and international agencies began to make plans for addressing the humanitarian crisis anticipated upon the liberation of the European continent, and especially in Germany, there was general consensus both on what that crisis would look like and how it would be handled. The common expectation was that the crisis would be short-term and, thus, their primary tasks would be to provide short-term relief in the form of emergency food, shelter and medical care for the refugees, while facilitating their return to their homes, wherever that might have been. Over the course of 1945, 1946, and into 1947, however, the objectives of the two primary “aid agencies” in the US Occupation Zone of Germany, the US Military (in the form of OMGUS and USFET) and UNRRA, increasingly diverged with important consequences for the displaced persons population remaining in Germany. Nowhere was this battle of conflicting objectives more obvious than in the war between OMGUS and UNRRA over the search for, care of and ultimate disposition of unaccompanied children. In that war, one can see, in a microcosm, the fundamental differences between the broader missions of the two “agencies” as they evolved, as well as the constraints limiting both parties in their pursuit of their goals. The consequences of the resulting stalemate for the displaced children were profound, with significant implications for the children’s future.

**Thursday, February 14 2013**  
**4:00 pm - SSC 5220**  
**Refreshments 3:30pm – SSC 5230**  
**All Welcome!**  
**For More info contact**  
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