

International workshop

BETWEEN TECHNIQUES, POLITICS, AND MEMORY: THE IDENTIFICATION OF DEAD BODIES OF VIOLENCE (19TH–21ST CENTURY)

Maison Française d'Oxford, 22-23 January 2026



Grave of an unknown British soldier near Ginchy, 1916 – National Army Museum

Organizers: Taline Garibian (University of Geneva)
& Benoît Pouget (Sciences Po Aix – MESOPOLHIS)



Thursday 22 January

2pm	Introduction
2:30pm	Panel 1 – BIOMETRICS AND ANTHROPOMETRY Chair: Erica Charters (University of Oxford) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benoît Pouget (Sciences Po Aix, MESOPOLHIS): "Anthropometry and Identification: The Origins of Forensic Anthropology"• Pascal Adalian (University of Aix-Marseille, ADES): "Identification and Forensic Anthropology: from Technical Issues to Socio-political Challenges"• Mareile Kaufmann (University of Oslo): "Biometrics in the Face of Death. The Changing Scopes of Facial Recognition and Dead Body Identification"
3:45pm	Panel 2 – IDENTIFICATION ON THE BATTLEFIELDS Chair: Jeong Ran Kim (University of Oxford) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linda Ratschiller (University of Geneva): "Custodians of Identity: Medical Experts and the Emergence of Identification Procedures in Nineteenth Century Warfare (1850s–1870s)"• Victoria Abrahamyan (University of Geneva) : "Identifying the Fallen of the Great War: Allied Experience on the Western Front"
5pm	Break
5:30pm	Keynote Chair: Taline Garibian (University of Geneva) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paco Ferrandiz (Spanish National Research Council): "An uncanny forensic lab: the search for the disappeared in the Valley of Cuelgamuros "

Friday 23 January

8:45am	Coffee
9:15am	Panel 3 – THE DEAD OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR Chair: Benoit Pouget (Sciences Po Aix, Mesopolhis) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura Tradii (University of Kent): "Mobility and Malpractice – Exhuming and Identifying the Wehrmacht dead in the German Democratic Republic (1945–1990)"• Taline Garibian (University of Geneva): "Naming as a Process: Administrative and Memorial Practices of Identification in Post-War France"
10:30am	Coffee break
11am	Panel 4 – MEMORIALISATION Chair: Mark Harrison (University of Oxford) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeanne Teboul (University of Strasbourg): "Names behind numbers'. From identification to memorialization of the 86 Jewish victims of a Nazi crime (Alsace, 1943)"• Halina Suwalowska (University of Oxford) : "Resting in Display: Ethical Dilemmas and Identification of Human Remains in Museums"
12:15pm	Conclusive remarks: Elisabeth Anstett (CNRS, ADES)
1:15pm	Lunch at MFO