

## Introducing: Historian Mark Sheftall to join faculty, add expertise as historian of war & society

By Carol Kerr 26 April 2018



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*Dr. Mark Sheftall currently teaches in the Bucknell University History Department. As the Army War College Harold K. Johnson Chair of Military History for academic 2019, he will teach in the curriculum and contribute to the research community.*

Dr. Mark Sheftall will join the U.S. Army War College as the Harold K. Johnson Chair in Military History for academic year 2019. Professor Sheftall currently serves in the Bucknell University History Department, where he teaches courses on War and Society, European History, and the British Empire. He will join the faculty in Carlisle, Pa, in July.

***Special noontime lecture scheduled for the 2018 student body***

This year's students can learn from Sheftall: Tuesday, May 1, 11:45 – 12:45 in Wil Washcoe Auditorium in a noontime lecture about the cultural memory of World War I in the British Empire.

"It's a new perspective on that memory," explained Sheftall. "Despite societies' similar backgrounds and similar World War I experience, there's a very different way in which they depict and interpret the meaning of war," he said about the British societies, such as Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

"My fields of specialty are the two world wars, and my research focus has tended to be the British Empire," he said.

***As the Harold K. Johnson Military History Chair, he'll engage in both teaching and research.***

"There are a lot of reasons to be at the Army War College," he said. He was drawn by his focus on war and society, the perceptions of colleagues' experience with the college, and good timing since he moved to the region a year ago. "It seems like an opportunity to participate and take advantage of everything there," he said.

The archives of the Army Heritage & Education Center are an attraction.

"My research will use the archives to look at frontier soldiers in the English-speaking world, from Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, to mounted units recruited from people who lived in the frontier zones of British colonies – Australia and Canada, particularly."

A graduate of the University of Georgia with a Ph.D. from Duke University, Sheftall is the author of "Altered Memories of the Great War: Divergent Narratives in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada". (I.B. Tauris Press).

His future department chair, Dr. Mark Duckenfield, noted the role of history in the war college curriculum.

"We use history to provide, on one hand, illustration of activities and issues that reveal that the issues that we struggle with are not so unique. History offers a deep account that gives context for students.

"For example, Holly Mayer's work on 18<sup>th</sup> century camp followers speaks to civil-military relations. She is an expert in the military welfare state providing social services to members and families, and tracing its evolution over time," he offered. Dr. Mayer served previously as a Harold K. Johnson

chair.

“Dr. Shelton’s work with the nationalism narrative within the British Empire coincides with the World War I centenary. “We think this is a timely focus,” said Duckenberg, who anticipates collaboration with Dr. Mike Neiberg, a fellow World War I historian.

‘We looking hard to have him teach in curriculum and share his with our research program, and give him space to contribute to the community in a way that interests him.

Dr. Sheftall, as the Harold K. Johnson Chair, joins the war college for one year

“Mark Sheftall is a talented historian, and an exceptional writer,” said Dr. Tami Biddle, fellow historian and USAWC faculty member. “Though his primary focus is British Imperial History, he is comfortable working across the entire spectrum of modern warfare. He has wide scholarly range, and will be a great asset to the USAWC.”

Dr. Sheftall will extend the line of distinguished Harold K. Johnson Chairs, including current Chair, Dr. Jennifer Mittelstadt, and former chair Dr. Holly Mayer.