



Commemorations compared: The Centenary on European government websites

Never Stand Still

Professor Oliver Janz, Free University Berlin 27 April 5.45pm—7.00pm, UNSW Canberra, Building 30, Lecture Theatre 04

The internet has become one of the most frequently visited commemorative sites. Databases, history portals and educational projects put at user's fingertips a diverse range of information and resources related to the First World War. In this process, governments are not far behind. This talk looks at the Centenary on official, government websites in Germany, Great Britain and France. It asks how the First World War is presented, narrated and interpreted on these official platforms. I am particularly interested in the terms of these narratives: do they remain within the borders of the nation-state, or do they envisage the war as a shared experience transcending national boundaries and identities?

Professor Oliver Janz holds a Chair in Modern History at the Free University Berlin. He has published widely in nineteenth and twentieth-century history, and is the editor-in-chief of 1914-1918-online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War. He advises numerous cultural institutions, such as the Historial de la Grande Guerre/ Museum of the Great War in Peronne, and was also chief academic advisor for 14 – Diaries of the First World War, an eight-part docu-drama broadcast in Germany and Austria in 2014.