

**Presenter: Iain O'Shea, MA**

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**CV: Iain O'Shea**

Iain O'Shea is currently in the second year of his PhD at the University of Victoria, studying under Dr. David Zimmerman. His research explores civil-military relations in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Britain through the interaction of thinkers within the national press. This period was a time of profound change in warfare as well as the creation of mass society, and O'Shea's work focuses on how these two historical phenomena interact through the medium of cultural discourses. His dissertation will explore the discourses on military reform in the late nineteenth century and their impact on four corps' which were particularly hard hit by technological change and fiscal 'efficiency.' These, the Royal Marines, the naval engineer officer corps, the Royal Engineer submarine miners, and the Royal Garrison Artillery have also been relatively neglected in the historiography of the transformation of the British armed forces.

O'Shea holds a MA in History from the University of New Brunswick (2010). His thesis, "Selling 'The Scheme': the British periodical press and the discourse on naval reform, 1900-1910," examined the modernization of the Royal Navy under the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir John A. Fisher (1904-10) and the First Lord the Earl of Selborne (1900-05). The focus of the project was on the role of civilian and service periodicals in creating a forum in which officers, politicians and other policy makers enthusiastically competed to gain the support of the educated public for various reform programs.

O'Shea has worked as a teaching assistant in European history, as well as guest lecturing in courses on the First World War and Modern Warfare. He has presented conference papers at graduate conferences at the University of New Brunswick (2009) on public opinion and the 1901 Selborne Scheme, at Dalhousie University (2010) on Admiral Fisher's reforms and at Qualicum (2011) on Sir John Pringle and the eighteenth century British army's contributions to Enlightened science.

In both his MA and PhD, O'Shea has been fortunate to have received the support of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) research funding which has provided research trips and conference attendances. Other generous support includes the Lieutenant-General S.F. Clark CD Scholarship from Communications Squadron 741.