

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ALPS AND CARPATHIANS AT THE GREAT WAR

*Entangled Fronts, Hinterlands,
and Memory*

5-6 October 2026

Museo Storico Italiano della Guerra
via Castelbarco 7, 38068 Rovereto (TN)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Partners:



Consolato Generale
della Repubblica di Polonia
in Milano



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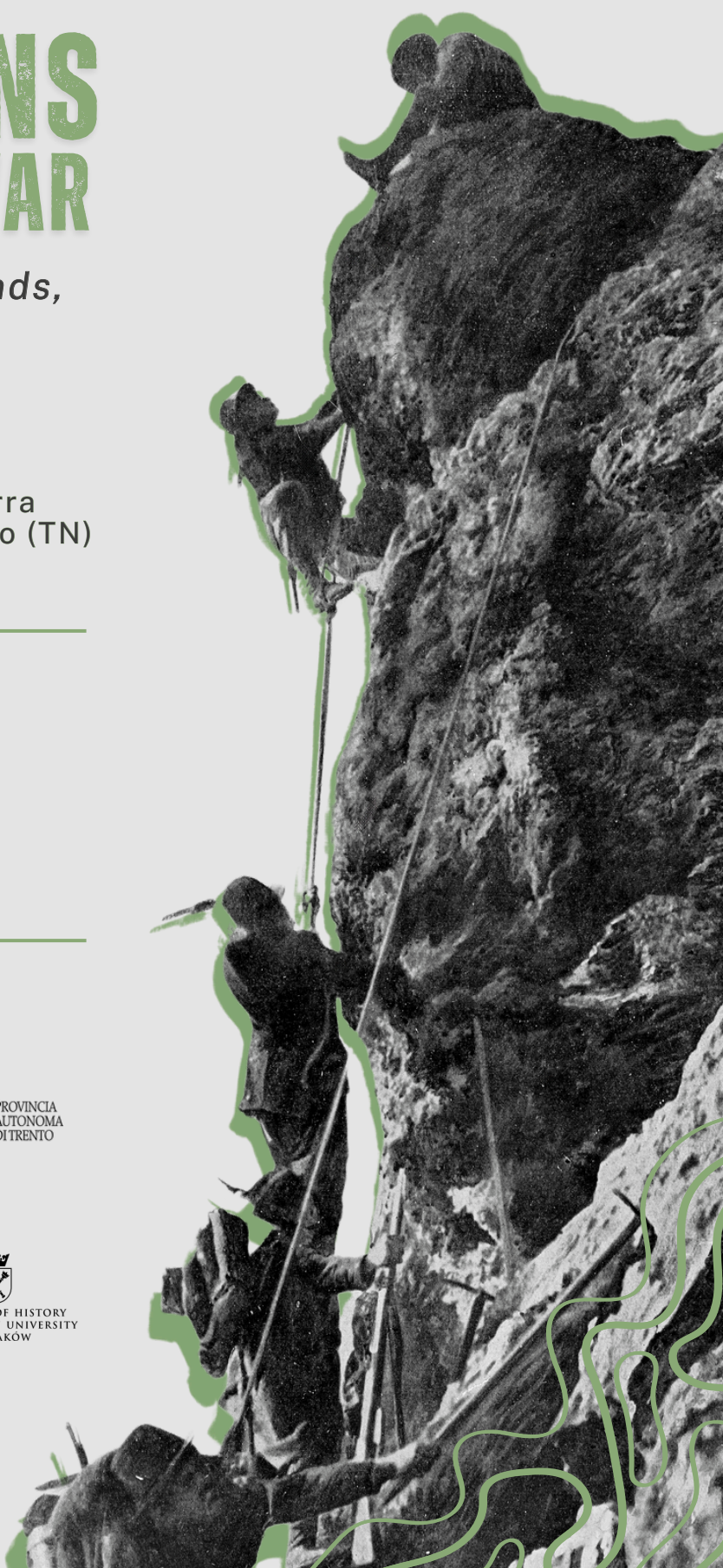
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The aim of the conference is to discuss a comparative analysis of military operations and related wartime phenomena in Galicia and present-day northern Italy during the First World War. The discussions will focus on the experience of war in mountainous environments, including the impact of terrain and weather on winter operations, the logistical challenges of supplying troops in high-altitude regions, and trench warfare in mountain landscapes. The conference will also address the fate of civilians behind the front lines, such as refugees, prisoners of war, repression, occupation, and the situation of national and linguistic minorities, as well as the evolution of war memory cultures, encompassing military cemeteries, transformed battlefields, museums, monuments, education, literature, and the First World War as a tourist and heritage framework.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

ARRIVAL • 4 October 2026

Arrival of participants and accommodation in Rovereto.

Optional field trip to selected First World War heritage sites in the region, followed by an informal dinner.

DAY I • 5 October 2026

10:00-10:30 Registration, Opening & Welcome Remarks

Agnieszka Gloria Kamińska (Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Milan)

Oswald Mederle (President of the Museo Storico Italiano della Guerra a Rovereto)

Francesco Frizzera (Director of the Museo Storico Italiano della Guerra a Rovereto)

Magdalena Wrana (Director of the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Rome)

I

Galicians and Italians at War: Stories Across Fronts

10:30-12:00 | Chair: Francesco Frizzera

10:30-10:50 **Joanna Sondel-Cedarmas** (Sapienza University in Rome) *Polish Soldiers in Italy 1916-1917*

10:50-11:10 **Quinto Antonelli** (Independent Scholar, former Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino) *"Quando fui sui monti Carpazi". L'esperienza di guerra dei soldati trentini sul fronte orientale* [*"When I was in the Carpathian Mountains"; the war experience of Trentino soldiers on the Eastern Front*]

11:10-11:30 **Piotr Szlanta** (University of Warsaw) *General Military Governorate in Lublin 1915-1918 - the main principles of the Austro-Hungarian occupation policy*

11:30-12:00 Discussion

12:00 Coffee Break

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Civilians at War: Refugees, Public Health and Nutrition on the Fronts and Beyond

12:30-14:00 | Chair: Kerstin von Lingen

12:30–12:50 **Kamil Ruszała** (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)
Bodies in Transit: Refugee Camps, Biopolitics, and Civilian Resilience in Eastern Europe at War

12:50–13:10 **Liana Popa** (University of Vienna)
(In)voluntary travelers: A gender-sensitive approach to civilians' experiences of war-related migration in WW1 Romania

13:10–13:30 **Oksana Nagornaia** (Humboldt University in Berlin)
Between Warscapes and Imperial Military Medicine: civilian bodies on the Eastern Front in the First World War

13:30–14:00 **Discussion**

14:00 **Lunch Break**

15:30–17:00 **KEYNOTE LECTURE I**
Gustavo Corni
Military occupations in comparison: Eastern Front and North-Eastern Italy

19:00 **Conference Dinner**

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DAY II • 6 October 2026

9:00–9:30 Registration & Morning Coffee

9:30–10:30 KEYNOTE LECTURE II

Camillo Zadra

Critical Perspectives on the Great War Trench Preservation and Alpine Museums

III

Frontline Space – War and Landscape

10:30–12:00 | Chair: Kamil Ruszała

10:30–10:50

Rupert Gietl, Gianluca Fondriest (ArcTeam/Freie Universitaet Bozen)

Written in the Landscape: Places, Traces, and Memories of the First World War in the Sexten Dolomites – Emerging Technologies and Innovative Data Systems for WW1 Conflict Heritage Management

10:50–11:10

Nicola Fontana (Museo Storico Italiano della Guerra)

Fortificazioni e militarizzazione del territorio. Il caso trentino tra Ottocento e Novecento [Fortifications and the Militarization of the Territory: The Case of South Tyrol Between the 19th and 20th Centuries]

11:10–11:30

Stefano Morosini (University of Bergamo)

High-Altitude Warfare as Ecological Engineering: Mount Scorluzzo and the Environmental History of the Alpine Front (Stelvio National Park, Italy)

11:30–12:00

Discussion

12:00

Coffee Break

IV

Memoryscapes and Narratives of Defeat, Trauma and Victory

12:30–14:00 | Chair: Piotr Szlanta

12:30–12:50

Francesco Frizzera (Museo Storico Italiano della Guerra)

Nationalizing the frontier dead: Casteldante Ossuary, memory tourism, and the commemorative landscape of Rovereto

12:50–13:10

Ślawomir Kułacz (WSB Merito University in Gdańsk, World War One Research Society)

The face of mountain warfare: personal narratives from the Carpathians, 1914–1915

13:10–13:30

Marco Mondini (University of Padua)

Small, Enormous, Useless, Heroic: A Transnational and Cultural Perspective on the Great War in the Alps

13:30–14:00

Discussion

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14:00–14:15 **Conference Remarks and Closure**

14:15 **Lunch for Speakers**

15:30 **Sightseeing: Museo Storico Italiano della Guerra**

DEPARTURE • 7 October 2026

Con il contributo di Provincia autonoma di Trento e Comune di Rovereto; Il convegno è stato realizzato grazie al contributo della Direzione Generale Biblioteche e Istituti Culturali del Ministero della Cultura /
With the contribution of the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Municipality of Rovereto, and the Ministry of Culture – Directorate General for Libraries and Cultural Institutes

Con il patrocinio del Consolato Generale della Repubblica di Polonia in Milano /
Under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Milan, Italy

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