

Institution: Aston University		
Unit of Assessment: 26 Modern Languages & Linguistics		
Title of case study: Behind the Wire: Increasing and Transforming Public Memorialisation of Civilian Internment, 1914-1919		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2008 to 2018		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s): Stefan Manz	Role(s) (e.g. job title): Prof. of German & Global History	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: January 2008 – present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: June 2016 - July 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? No		
1. Summary of the impact <p>During the First World War, Britain interned 50,000 civilian 'enemy aliens' in camps across its Empire. 'Behind the Wire' has developed public memorialisation of internment through a wide range of public engagement activities. Diverse audiences in Britain, Ireland, South Africa, the United States and Canada have gained new global and critical perspectives on their local and national histories. Manz led a team of 19 academics and had a direct positive impact on the professional practices of curators, archivists, archaeologists, teachers, translators, designers and theatre producers. Activities have increased heritage appreciation, international understanding, and empathy with minority populations.</p>		
2. Underpinning research <p>The most striking finding of Professor Manz's research was the degree to which internment operations destroyed diasporic German-speaking communities on a global scale – supporting notions of a 'total war' (R1, R2).</p> <p>The research at Aston builds upon Manz's PhD thesis on the German immigrant community in Glasgow, 1864-1918. This was published as a monograph in 2003, and its final chapter was the first scholarly treatment of the main Scottish internment camp during World War I (WWI): Stobs Camp near Hawick (Borders).</p> <p>After commencing at Aston University, Manz was awarded an AHRC Research Fellowship (2012) and a collaborative Gerda Henkel Research Grant (2014-15) to further investigate the connections between German emigration before WWI, global marginalisation after 1914, and the network of internment camps throughout the British Empire. This led to a major single-authored monograph (R1), refereed articles and chapters (R3, R4), a co-edited volume on global internment regimes (R5) and a co-authored monograph (R2).</p> <p>The issue of civilian mass internment was virtually absent from twentieth century scholarship on WWI. Although this picture has started to change in recent years, current scholarship is still largely locked in (proto-)national frameworks of analysis. Professor Manz's scholarship showed that this is too narrow a view for understanding the scale of internment operations: it must be understood on an imperial and transnational scale. Manz also showed that liberal Britain stood at the forefront of developing the first global mass internment operation of the twentieth century, and he explained why this was conducted in a relatively humane way. These conclusions arose from archival research in Britain, Germany, South Africa and India (R2, R3).</p> <p>This global approach informed all public engagement activities in terms of original sources and conceptualisation. To stress the human dimension of the topic, Manz made particular efforts to collect material evidence that lends itself to public communication. This included photographs and drawings of camps and their inmates, as well as artefacts produced by inmates, such as bone carvings and letters. Manz's research directly enabled contextualisation of these items for public audiences.</p>		

Through the course of the twentieth century, First World War civilian internment was largely forgotten, as it did not sit comfortably with remembrance patterns such as Remembrance Day or the poppy installation in the Tower of London (2014). These tend to focus on heroism and sacrifice on the battlefield. Manz's research has critically redressed this 'amnesia' by integrating civilian 'enemy aliens' into public war narratives in multiple local and national contexts (**R2, R4**). For example, in South Africa knowledge of Fort Napier as an internment camp was non-existent until Manz's research (**R3**) laid the groundwork for memorialisation activities in KwaZulu Natal Province (see Section 4). And finally, Manz's global approach allowed him to demonstrate that the Stobs site in Scotland contains the world's best-preserved archaeological remains of a purpose-built WWI internment camp (**R2, R4**).

3. References to the research

- R1** Stefan Manz, *Constructing a German Diaspora. The 'Greater German Empire', 1871-1914* (New York: Routledge, 2014), 360 pages (incl. WWI chapter). ISBN 9780415892261
- R2** Stefan Manz, Panikos Panayi, *Enemies in the Empire. Civilian Internment in the British Empire during the First World War*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, January 2020). ISBN 9780198850151
- R3** Stefan Manz and Tilman Dederich, 'Enemy Aliens' in Wartime. Civilian Internment in South Africa during World War I, *South African Historical Journal* 68/4 (2016), pp. 536-556. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02582473.2016.1246593>, Impact Factor 0.302
- R4** Stefan Manz, Enemy Aliens in Scotland in a Global Context, 1914-1919: Germanophobia, Internment, Forgetting, in Hannah Ewence, Tim Grady (eds.), *Minorities and the First World War. From War to Peace* (London: Palgrave, 2017), pp. 117-142. ISBN 9781137539748
- R5** Stefan Manz, Panikos Panayi, Matthew Stibbe (eds.), *Internment during the First World War. A Mass Global Phenomenon* (London New York: Routledge, 2018), pp. 298. ISBN 9780415787444

Grants Awarded

- a) **AHRC**, 2012: Research Fellowship awarded to Prof Manz, 1 January to 31 May 2012, to conduct research and write up monograph *Constructing a German Diaspora. The 'Greater German Empire', 1871-1914*. **£50,238**
- b) **Gerda Henkel Foundation**, 2014-15: Research Grant awarded to Prof Manz and Prof Panikos Panayi, 1 May 2014 to 31 August 2015, entitled *Interning German 'Enemy Aliens' in the British Empire during World War I: Global, National and Local Perspectives*. **€13,000**
- c) **AHRC** sub-award for public engagement, 2015-16: 'The Stobs Internment Camp and the Borders Region during WWI. Local Memories, Global Contexts', 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2016, to facilitate cooperation with public stakeholders and to bring together academics and the general public in a study weekend. **£14,757**
- d) **AHRC** Follow-On funding for impact, 2018. Project rated 'Outstanding' for all categories by both academic reviewers, incl. '6' (highest) overall grade. 'The German Diaspora during World War I: Remembering Internment Camps in Britain and the Commonwealth', to make exhibition, theatre productions, translations, research centre, education packs. PI Prof Manz; CI Prof Anne Schwan, Edinburgh Napier University, leading on theatre. **£98,953**

The excellent research quality is testified by its publication with reputable publishing houses and peer-reviewed journals, and awarding of CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2014 to **R1**.

4. Details of the impact

The **research beneficiaries** include:

- **communities nearby former camps** and **internee ancestors** who gained a new, critical understanding of their heritage and identity.
- **museum curators, archivists, archaeologists** and **site volunteers** who altered their professional practices, having:
 - integrated Manz's materials into their exhibition and engagement work.
 - reviewed, restructured and enhanced their collections.

- **school teachers** and their **pupils** who received newly generated educational materials tailored to their locality.
- **audiences** of newspaper, TV and radio who learnt about their countries' histories.

Manz cooperated with 19 academics to ensure that public materials were academically sound. He invited them to share their knowledge at public events. To reach wider audiences, he also worked closely with curators, archaeologists, archivists, amateur historians, collectors, translators, designers and actors.

These **five types of impactful activities** were led by Manz:

1. A **public study weekend** (2016) attended by over 100 was held in the Scottish Borders Archive (**S1**). On day one, artefacts from public and private collections were displayed, and their histories explained. Day two was an excursion to the archaeological site. Many attendees highlighted how surprised they were to learn about the international significance of Stobs Camp (**S2**:pp.2,4-5). The Stobs Project Officer for Archaeology Scotland testified how Manz's:

...research has made such a huge difference for my work 'on the ground' with volunteers, school pupils and the general public... We've managed to reach hundreds of people in the Borders and beyond, transforming the way they perceive – and respect – their local history and environment. (S3)

2. A **public exhibition**, [*Behind the Wire: Civilian Internment in the British Empire, 1914-1919*](#), was held at five UK locations and six in Ireland, South Africa, the US and Canada. Footfall totalled over 25,914 (**S4a-g**). Manz addressed 11 exhibition openings. The curator of St Thomas More Gallery (Canada) found the opening talk:

...an excellent introduction to this topic and a tangible link between our local history of internment and a much wider network of global issues. (S4a)

The Local Studies Librarian of Meath County Council (Ireland), reflected:

...what was remarkable about the gathering on 26 May in Oldcastle was that it was comprised almost entirely of Irish descendants of the internees and their families... Your research gave them a new understanding of their own heritage and identity. (S4b)

Museum exhibitors stressed how cooperation with Manz left a significant or long-term impact on how they since present their own collections, offering new objects, narratives and interpretations (**S4a-c,e-f, S5**). The Curator and Acting Museums Manager at Live Borders (Scotland) described how:

...Prof Manz has brought [objects and texts] to light through contextualisation, translation and performance... A theatre programme from 1917 found by Prof Manz in our collections...[was]...integrated...in our display, alongside...a video of the...[reenacted theatre]...performance... This gave a real 'buzz' to the exhibition. The explanations we added to the objects owe a great deal to his original research. (S4c)

3. Three sold-out **public theatre performances**, [*A Night at Stobs*](#), in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Hawick (audiences totalling 280: **S6**) of a translated, reconstructed play first performed at Stobs Camp in 1917 (Fig. 1).



Figure 1: 1917 theatre programme (left); 2018 theatre performance & flyer (centre & right)

Edinburgh Napier University (AHRC Co-I) led its artistic production. Manz rediscovered the original programme in Hawick Museum's repository, co-authored new programme notes, and worked with artists on ensuring historical accuracy.

4. The **Internment Research Centre (IRC)** – open to anyone interested in past and present internment throughout the world – was co-founded by Manz in 2018. It is located in the Scottish Borders Archive, whose manager explained how Manz's:

...work has had a truly transformative impact on the way we collect, catalogue and present our holdings... Partly as a result of the Stobs Camp/I.R.C. project it has been decided to integrate the museum, archive and local studies collections on a single [online] platform with a new 'front end'. (S5)

5. Printed and online **education packs** were tailor-made with education specialists for use in [Scottish](#) and [South African](#) primary schools, and in Scottish prison learning centres (S6). In South Africa, Manz ran workshops for pupils and teachers (Fig. 2).

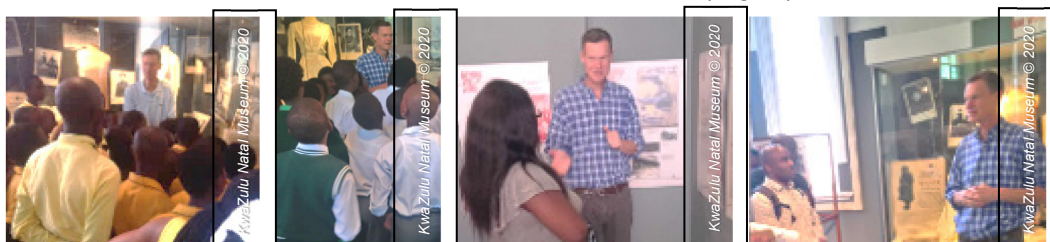


Figure 2: Exhibition, & workshops with local pupils & teachers, in KwaZulu Natal Museum

The Director of Education of KwaZulu Natal Museum found Manz's visit "empowering", and educational packs "excellent" for teachers (S7). The previously forgotten local camp has been recovered through Manz's research (R3), exhibition and educational resources (S4e).

Those **impactful activities**, and **related media coverages**, reached many and diverse audiences – up to tens of millions of people globally (S8a-c). The **significance of the impact** – echoed by recurring audience feedback – is that it raised critical awareness of:

- **local heritage**: "...the need to preserve the important history on our doorstep." (S2:p.2)
- **global connectedness**: "Increased awareness of the international dimension" (S2:p.2)
- **universal needs for reconciliation and empathy for 'enemies' and minorities**: "everyone was a mother's son regardless" (S9:p12).

5. Sources to corroborate the impact

S1 Newspaper article, 'Event highlights international significance of Stobs Camp', *Hawick News*, 24 Jun 2016

S2 Survey of attendees at public study weekend, Scottish Borders Archive & Stobs Camp

S3 Email from Stobs Camp Project Officer, Archaeology Scotland, 30 Oct 2019

S4 Various emails and testimonial letters from museums etc that exhibited 'Behind the Wire':

a Curator, St Thomas More Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Canada, 15 Mar 2020

b Local Studies Librarian, Meath County Council, Ireland, 24 Oct 2019

c Curator and Acting Museums Manager, Hawick Museum, Live Borders, Scotland, 27 Nov 2019

d Director, Northern Cultural Projects CIC, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, 17 Apr 2020

e Assistant Director, Exhibitions Department, KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 4 Dec 2020

f Director, Museum and Historical Collections Curator, Fort Douglas Military Museum, USA, 9 Nov 2019

g Coordinator for Voices of War and Peace and its Legacy, Library of Birmingham, Birmingham, England, 30 April 2019

S5 Testimonial letter from Manager, Scottish Borders Archive, Hawick, Scotland, 1 Nov 2019

S6 Letter from Edinburgh Napier University, mentioning audience numbers for theatre performances and prison education packs, 29 Jan 2021

S7 Email from Director of Education, KwaZulu Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 13 Sept 2019

S8 Activities reaching ~10s of thousands & media reaching up to ~10s of millions of people:

a Study weekend (100 total footfall: **S1**) & theatre performances (280 audience members: **S6**)

b Exhibition Showings (25,914 total footfall: **S4a-g**):

- Canada: St Thomas More Gallery Saskatoon, 28/10-15/12/19 (footfall 3,900: **S4a**).
- England: Midlands Arts Centre Birmingham, WWI Festival of Ideas, 22-23/3/19 (footfall 250: **S4g**)
- England: Newcastle Public Library, 11-25/11/19 and Eldon Gardens Shopping Centre, 27/11 to 4/12/19 (combined footfall 2,600: **S4d**);
- Ireland: Oldcastle Public Library, 26/5/19 to 30/6/20 (footfall 1,250: **S4b**)
- Scotland: Hawick Museum, 3/11/18 to 27/4/19 (footfall 3,878: **S4c**)
- South Africa: KwaZulu Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg 9/9/19 to 31/07/20 (footfall: 13,000: **S4e**)
- USA: Fort Douglas Military Museum, Salt Lake City, 20/8-12/10/19 (footfall 1,036: **S4f**), and Utah State University Foyer, 17/10-22/11/19

c Media coverage approximation, tallied from databases courtesy of ZPB Associates (32,356,812 total potential audience reach based on combined publicly reported circulation and online audience figures from media outlets. NB double counting unconsidered):

TV (audience) & online (unique views per month: UVPM) interviews with Prof Manz on:

- 'Who do you think you are?' with Rick Stein, BBC1 & BBC2 (16-17 Feb, 11 Mar, 21 Dec 2009), audience: n/a & UVPM: n/a
- BBC Midlands Today News (7 Aug 2014), audience: n/a
- Heir Hunters, BBC1, BBC2, BBC Scotland (27 & 30 Jul, 28 Dec 2018, 30 Oct 2019), audience & UVPM: n/a

Radio (listeners) & online (unique views per month: UVPM):

- World War I at Home, Dumfries, Scotland: Anti-German riots in Dumfries: BBC Scotland (17 Jul 2014), listeners: 825,000 & UVPM: n/a

Press (circulation) & online (unique views per month: UVPM):

- "Behind the Wire: The Stories of Britain's Great War Internees Revealed", interview by Matt Elton in BBC History Magazine (9-10 Dec 2014), circulation: n/a & UVPM: n/a
- 'Barbed Wire Disease' and Shows, interview by Shân Ross (28 Feb 2018), circulation: n/a & UVPM: n/a
- 'Life in Scotland's internment camps to be highlighted', The Scotsman (28 Feb 2018), circ:14,417 & UVPM:1,008,534
- 'Exhibition sheds light on British war camps' (4 Nov 2018), in Press Association outlets:
 - Belfast Telegraph: circ:33,951 & UVPM:317, 999
 - Daily Mail: circ:994,081 & UVPM:23,912,681
 - Aberdeen Evening Express: circ:19,732 & UVPM:151,087
 - Knutsford Guardian: circ:3,946 & UVPM:6,760
 - Glasgow Herald: circ:n/a & UVPM:n/a
 - News & Star (Cumberland): circ:6,611 & UVPM:n/a
 - Shropshire Star: circ:15,683 & UVPM:195,056
 - Scotsman: circ:14,417 & UVPM:1,008,534
 - Yahoo News: circ:n/a & UVPM: 937,516
- 'The 'aliens' in held in Borders camp', Daily Record (5 Nov 2018): circ:91,556 & UVPM:906,445
- 'Behind wire at Scots internment camp...', Scottish Daily Mail (5 Nov 2018): circ:70,216 & UVPM:128,604
- 'German 'aliens' detained in Hawick', The Scotsman (7 Nov 2018): circ:14,417 & UVPM:1,008,534

Press, and online, reporting of theatre performances on:

- BBC online news (27 Feb 2018): UVPM:n/a
- The Scotsman (27 Feb 2018): circ:14,417 & UVPM:1,008,534

S9 Participant feedback forms from opening of Internment Research Centre, Hawick (3 Nov '18)