

Keith Lilley

Title: "Troubled Legacies: Commemorative Practices and Transnational Identities in Remembering World War 1 in (Northern) Ireland"

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"Living Legacies 1914-18" is one of five AHRC funded Public Engagement Centres created in 2014 to connect academic and community researchers during the centenary of World War 1 (WW1) (<http://www.livinglegacies1914-18.ac.uk/>). The formation of the Living Legacies Centre emerged through shared interests between academics in exploring the contemporary resonances of the war in Northern Ireland, where the past is particularly palpable, evidenced today by the enduring legacies of the conflict in the histories and identities of Ireland's populations, as well as in its politics and places. Working with HLF-funded community projects, and other local heritage projects, this paper uses the experiences of Living Legacies' ongoing public engagement and outreach activities to offer some critical reflections and insights on practices of commemoration of WW1 in Belfast. The war's 'troubled legacies' have offered interesting opportunities to work with a range of communities in Northern Ireland, furthering our understanding of the cultural politics of conflict commemoration and its shaping of transnational identities. These are subjects that have contemporary relevance not just for Northern Ireland but for other parts of Europe too, and indeed other parts of the world. To this end, the paper will focus in particular on aspects of co-design and co-production methodologies and processes that the Centre has developed through working with and collaborating with community centenary projects, and which may offer transferable approaches to explore similar issues in areas of contested heritage.