

Reimagining Humanitarianism in the Age of Global Solidarity:

Interrogating power structures in aid and multilateral institutions

Dr Margot Tudor, [University of Exeter](#)



Dr. Margot Tudor is a historian of international interventions, decolonisation, and sovereignty, focusing on post-colonial state formation and colonial continuities in international security practices during the mid-20th century at the University of Exeter's College of Social Sciences and International Studies.

In 2020, she finished my ESRC-funded thesis, 'Blue Helmet Bureaucrats: UN Peacekeeping Missions and the Formation of the Post-Colonial International Order, 1956-1971' at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, based at the University of Manchester. Her PhD was a history of United Nations peacekeeping missions during the height of decolonisation (1956-1971). It highlighted the colonial continuities and lineages of peacekeeping practices in the field by taking a comparative approach to the first four armed UN missions: UNEF (Sinai and Gaza), ONUC (Congo), UNTEA (West Papua), and UNFICYP (Cyprus). During her time at the University of Manchester, Dr. Tudor won the

Faculty of Humanities Award for Distinguished Achievement.

In June 2021, Dr. Tudor's PhD thesis was awarded the BISA Michael Nicholson Thesis Prize 2021. From January 2021-2023, she will be a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Leverhulme-funded project, 'Warnings from the Archive: A Century of British Intervention in the Middle East', working alongside Dr Owen Thomas (Pol) and Professor Catriona Pennell (Hist). Her project is linked to the Centre for Histories of Violence and Conflict.

Dr. Tudor is currently working on a manuscript, building on her PhD research, that focuses on tracing how mid-level UN peacekeepers shaped the post-colonial international order and remade sovereignty from 1948-1971. Her post-PhD project focuses on UN peacekeeping, gender, and recreational activities, exploring the construction of a cosmopolitan, international force through field-based masculine pursuits, such as competitive sport, drinking, and watching dancers perform. This project uses the UNEF and UNFICYP missions to question how far the 'UN peacekeeper' identity - or distinct peacekeeping culture(s) - was shaped by these experiences of male camaraderie. Military masculinities were compounded with humanitarian rhetoric and pronouncements of joining a 'moral force' for world peace. By examining peacekeeper-compiled sources, this project will explore how these activities enabled the transnational troops to gel and work better together, thus stabilising troop morale and producing a more authentic military.

Dr. Tudor is an Associate Fellow of the HEA and has taught BA/MA level courses at the University of Manchester and the LSE.

She was elected as an Early Career Member of the Royal Historical Society in June 2020. I am Co-Convenor of the International History and Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century annual conference. I am also a member of SHAFR, Women Also Know History, ISA (Human Rights and Historical International Relations sections), ENIUGH, and the British International History Group.

Listen to Dr. Tudor discuss what global solidarity means to her at the Multilateralism session from 2 – 3pm (GMT+1) on Thursday 8 July.