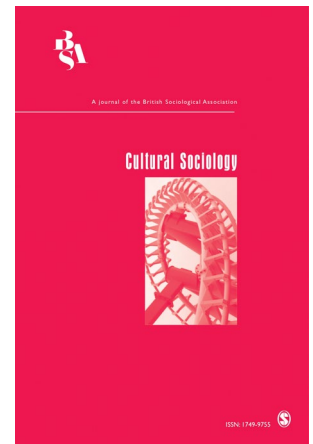


Call for Abstracts: *Cultural Sociology* Special Issue **Cultural Sociology of War**

Guest Editors: Rin Ushiyama (Queen's University Belfast) and Ming-Cheng M. Lo (University of California-Davis)



Deadline for submission of abstracts: 17 October 2024, 17:00 BST

Wars, and human suffering associated with them, have caused profound traumas and fears, and necessitated the search for the possibilities of healing and hope.

Wars are, by definition, political and military affairs. At the same time, wars are not reducible to political and military power; wars are also driven by symbolic and moral processes, often eliciting intense civil debates and 'social dramas' based on deeply held moral views, emotional narratives, and cultural tropes. As cultural sociologists have highlighted, political, civil, and artistic representations of war frequently emphasize the symbolic opposition of good and evil, heroes and villains, and victims and perpetrators. In this respect, narratives and other forms of cultural representations are integral to normative struggles surrounding wars, including questions such as the use of lethal force against civilians, identification of social groups as 'friends' and 'enemies', allocation of blame and responsibility, creation of peace and reconciliation initiatives, and projections for future wars.

This special issue aims to apply and develop cultural sociology as an intellectual tool to advance our theoretical understanding of these processes. We look for articles that explore how wars, across geographical locations and temporalities, are narrated, coded or imagined, and how such cultural imaginations shape the emotions, reactions, and moral visions about wars and legacies of wars. Examples include, but are not limited to, these topics:

- War as cultural trauma;
- The social construction of war as an 'event' and social drama;
- The role of the civil sphere in support of and in opposition to wars.
- Competitive struggles between hegemonic and counter-hegemonic war narratives;
- The role of cultural institutions (TV, media, social media, arts etc.) and cultural actors (artists, journalists, experts, commentators, other "carrier groups" etc.) in war;
- Discursive boundaries between war and other forms of conflict and violence, such as terrorism, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.
- Humanization, De-humanization, and Re-humanization of actors (including combatants and non-combatants) implicated in war;
- The construction of collective identities in relation to future (potential) wars;
- Competitive and/or collaborative processes in post-conflict/post-war societies.

- The implication of trauma narratives of war and conflict for transitional justice, human rights, and ethical considerations.

In short, we welcome rigorous analyses of the meaning-making processes and cultural imaginations about wars. Successful contributions should engage with cultural sociological debates and be grounded in concrete and systematic empirical analyses. Theoretical pieces that represent original and focused contributions to specific literatures in the cultural sociology of war are also welcome.

Instructions for authors

Please submit an abstract of around 500 words, describing your central research question, theoretical framework, methods and data, and general argument or expected findings via the [online submission portal](#).

Decisions will be communicated to authors by 15 November 2024. Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be invited to submit full papers which will undergo a fully anonymised peer review process to reflect the quality standards of the *Cultural Sociology* and BSA. Being invited to submit a full paper does not guarantee publication in the issue, as acceptance is dependent on the peer review process.

Submissions should be sent to the Editors through the [online submission portal](#).

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 17 October 2024

Decisions on abstracts communicated to accepted authors: Late November 2024

Submission of **full papers: 15 September 2025**

For any additional information or questions regarding the issue, please contact the *Cultural Sociology* Editor Office by emailing Selina Hisir at selina.hisir@brisoc.org.uk

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