

## **Gendering the ‘Jews’ War’: Women, Anti-Semitism, and Peace/Anti-War Campaigns in Britain**

From 1938 Britain’s fascist movement, the British Union led by Oswald Mosley, launched an anti-war campaign, throwing into some confusion the construction of gender roles, and especially that of the New Fascist Man. Fascist women, figured as innately conciliatory and nurturing, had seemingly less difficulty in channelling their fascist militancy into anti-war activities, and they launched their own Women’s Peace Campaign in 1940. But they were very much unlikely pacifists. They opposed the war because it was, as they called it, the ‘Jews’ War’, their activities giving free reign to their ‘motherly hate’, obsessive anti-Semitism, vitriol against refugees (charity begins at home), and myopic isolationism. This paper will make sense of the seeming paradox of fascist pacifism, and situate fascist women’s peace campaigns within the wider context of the women’s peace movement in the period after appeasement. Indeed, the BU’s Women’s Peace Campaign was only one, if the most extreme, expression of women’s peace activism in the face of war.

**Dr Julie V. Gottlieb** is Reader in Modern History at the University of Sheffield (UK). She has a BA from McGill University, and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. She has written extensively on women’s politicization and the feminization of politics in modern Britain. Her first book, *Feminine Fascism: Women in Britain's Fascist Movement, 1923-1945* (I.B. Tauris, 2000) revealed women's active participation and complex representation in far-Right politics. Her most recent monograph, *'Guilty Women', Foreign Policy and Appeasement in Inter-war Britain* (Palgrave, 2015) brings into convergence two central questions about the period: why did Britain follow the course it did in international relations in the 1930s, and what happened after the vote was won. She has also edited and contributed to two books focusing on the latter question, with Richard Toye, *The Aftermath of Suffrage* (Palgrave, 2013), and *Feminists and Feminism After Suffrage* (Routledge, 2016). She is organizing an international conference at the University of Sheffield on “Gendering Peace in Europe, c.1918-1945”, Humanities Research Institute, 20-21 January, 2017.