

# L Staiano-Daniels

**25 February 2019**

**In re the Dan David Fellowship  
Academic Committee  
Arnold Fund  
School of History  
Tel Aviv University, Israel**

I study the history of early-modern soldiers and I am applying to the Dan David fellowship at the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies at the University of Tel Aviv. I received my doctorate from UCLA on 15 June 2018: my dissertation, *The War People: The Daily Life of Common Soldiers, 1618-1654*, explored the daily lives of common soldiers in Electoral Saxony during the Thirty Years War. My previous degrees in Classics and Liberal Arts trained me in the close reading of texts; I supplement this with an attention to unknown people to bring a deep, focused reading to written records left by ordinary soldiers and women. Through the close reading of early-modern military statistical documents and ethnographic analysis of soldiers' daily lives and material contexts, I take a revisionist look toward other historians' assertions about early-modern mercenaries and their families.

While at the School of History I would be eager to contribute to our knowledge of work and gender in early modern armies. Specifically, I plan to do research toward a series of articles in top journals studying the networks of haulers, traders, and drovers centered on Albrecht von Wallenstein and analyzing how they obtained and transported goods. This work would investigate the daily lives of low-level people, not great financiers. It would explore the subjective experience of the interactions with the material world from the perspective of the men and women engaged in the daily work of military transport and logistics.

This difficult labor was performed by women as well as men. Seventeenth-century military masculinity was distinctive: exuberant, self-confident, and highly resistant to discipline from above. My dissertation explored what it felt like to be a man in this environment. But because women participated in almost every area of military society, their experiences are also of interest. Whether there was a distinctive military way of being a woman in the early seventeenth century, and if so what it looked like, has barely been explored. My dissertation touched on these issues but did not focus on them, while John Lynn's *Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe* was based largely on published sources, not the unfiltered primary documentation of military trade and transport I plan to examine. My analysis would not only build on the insights I reached in my dissertation but also lay the groundwork for my very long term project, an ambitious new biography of Wallenstein himself.

I am fascinated by the way the small, concrete details of military living illuminate the large historical questions we grapple with, and their wider implications. In my dissertation I systematically collected and analyzed the data in every single mercenary muster roll from the Thirty Years' War in the Sächsisches Hauptstaatsarchiv in Dresden. I also followed the career of

the Mansfeld Regiment, a Saxon regiment which served the Spanish and Imperial Habsburgs in northern Italy. Statistical analysis plus the “thick description” of one small unit offer an unprecedented, granular look at the lives of ordinary mercenaries, including recruitment, funding and loans; place of origin, pay, and social mobility; kinship, friendship, and religion; and the effect of commanders’ financial stability on military operations. The book manuscript based on *The War People* is now under review at Cambridge University Press, freeing me to work on new projects.

I am currently researching an article for publication in *War in History*. In it I argue that the relationships between civilians and soldiers during the Thirty Years War were more complex than the popular perception of the Thirty Years War as a “total war” in which civilians were engulfed by violence. This article is already expanding the insights of my first book: *The War People* described early seventeenth-century soldiers as members of a distinct subculture, but this article analyzes letters between ordinary civilians and members of a cavalry company in Tilly’s army to probe interactions among members of different groups. The people who exchanged these letters were sons and daughters, siblings, parents, inlaws, business partners, friends, spouses, and lovers. They belonged to multiple overlapping social networks and cannot be easily divided into “soldiers” and “civilians.”

The demonstrated strengths I will bring to your community are my talent for the systematic collection of unfiltered, unpublished data and my capacity for independent research at the highest level leading to publication in top journals and a book manuscript. I am interested in many methodologies, from statistical history to the history of material objects and physical experience, and I am committed to sharing my findings and insights with others. I look forward to working with you.

**Yours Sincerely,**

**L Staiano-Daniels**