



# Scholars in Arms and International Networks

**Philology, Politics, Scientific Competition and Cooperation from the Franco-Prussian War (1870) to the Cold War (1961-1989).**

On October 4th 2014 it has been celebrated the 100th anniversary of the *Aufruf an die Kulturwelt!*, the manifesto signed by 93 German men of science that marked a turning point in the relationship between Universities, State and Culture in broader sense. The list of signatures included the Gotha of the world culture in a variety of disciplines, from medicine (Emil Adolf von Behring, Nobel 1901; Paul Ehrlich, Nobel 1908), to physics (Wilhelm Röntgen, Nobel 1901; Max Planck, future Nobel 1918), chemistry (Emil Fischer, Nobel 1902; Adolf von Baeyer, Nobel 1905), classical philology (Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Möllendorff), literature (Gerhart Hauptmann, Nobel 1912). It was an unprecedented event, which induced both reactions and counter-reactions, from reflections about the right of intellectuals to a political commitment, to the charge of the so-called 'betrayal of the clerics', accused to have sacrificed the search of 'pure truth' in the name of political advantage and interest.

- Taking the move from this anniversary, this project associates scholars of different disciplines (philological, literary, historical, philosophical, linguistic, etc.) who intend to study in a common perspective the enormous impact of World War I on European academic culture and in general the behavior of individuals and institutions in front of the situation of permanent **conflict and competition** among State-Nations which was typical of European history in XIXth and XXth centuries.
- Nevertheless, if these are the centuries of competition among Nation and States, at the same time they are also the centuries in which the first **cooperative networks** appear in many fields of science, from Romance Philology to Physical Sciences. These networks will have great impact not only on scientific progress but often on political relationships.
- The project aims at creating a constellation of research projects and publications in order to empower a wide horizon strategy to let Humanities successfully cope with the key challenges of our times. We will create an Archive, an Electronic Journal and a Website devoted to the issues of the complex relationship between Academic Culture and Politics in European history of the past two centuries, and a collection of Audio-Visual products. The latter will be of high philological quality but appreciable from a large audience of educated, but not specialized, people. The Archive will include both primary sources and secondary literature, in integral form (where possible according to copyright legislation), or in structured files (bibliographical reports, summaries, regesta, etc.).
- The Journal will offer periodical original contributions and a blog aimed at facilitating a fast network communication between scholars.