

## PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 28.06.2021

### **On Call: The labour of African American nurses during the 1918 Flu**

Virtual lecture by Edna Bonhomme in the “Carte Blanche III” series

**Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6 p.m. via ZOOM**

The impact of the **1918-19 influenza pandemic** was devastating for all, however factors such as gender, class, race and geographical differences even exacerbated the suffering.

To understand how this pandemic impacted different communities, historian and writer **Edna Bonhomme** will explore how Black women’s labour in nursing—which was limited by racial segregation—can provide more insight into the pandemic within the context of racial segregation, wartime activities, and medical treatment in confined or more compact spaces. African American nurses were often on call, but, due to the legacies of exclusion and discrimination in medicine the expertise of these medical professionals was not always granted their full potential. Nevertheless, Bonhomme’s lecture shows how their labour was rooted in care.

#### **SPEAKER**

Edna Bonhomme, Historian of science, writer and interdisciplinary artist

#### **MODERATOR**

Volker Heins, KWI Fellow & Council Member of the Academy in Exile

#### **COORDINATORS**

Julika Griem, KWI Director

Sabine Voßkamp, KWI Research Management

#### **PARTICIPATION**

Participants can register for the lecture via e-mail to [emily.beyer@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:emily.beyer@kwi-nrw.de) by Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Participants will then receive the Zoom link.

#### **ORGANISATION**

Organised by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI)

#### PRESS CONTACT

Helena Rose (KWI) | +49 201 183-8106 | [helena.rose@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:helena.rose@kwi-nrw.de)

Miriam Wienhold (KWI) | +49 201 183-8106 | [miriam.wienhold@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:miriam.wienhold@kwi-nrw.de)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

[Event on the KWI website.](#)

### **ABOUT CARTE BLANCHE III**

In these seemingly never-ending pandemic times, we would like to reward ourselves and our audience once again with four inspiring talks: We have given well-known researchers from various disciplines carte blanche to present and discuss a topic of their own choice with us. In summer 2021 we are looking forward to hearing from Wolfgang Ullrich (art historian & author; Leipzig), Edna Bonhomme (historian, writer & interdisciplinary artist; Berlin), Annette Gilbert (literary scholar; FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg), and Amia Srinivasan (Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory at All Souls College, Oxford).

**We would appreciate the circulation of this press release.**

#### **About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):**

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: “cultural studies of science and science policy making”, “sociology of literature and culture”, “science communication”, and a “teaching lab”. Projects in the established research field “culture of communication”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

[www.kulturwissenschaften.de](http://www.kulturwissenschaften.de)

**Please note:** If you do not wish to receive any further press releases from the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI), please send a short message to [presse@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:presse@kwi-nrw.de). Many thanks.

#### **PRESS CONTACT**

Helena Rose (KWI) | +49 201 183-8106 | [helena.rose@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:helena.rose@kwi-nrw.de)  
Miriam Wienhold (KWI) | +49 201 183-8106 | [miriam.wienhold@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:miriam.wienhold@kwi-nrw.de)

[www.kulturwissenschaften.de](http://www.kulturwissenschaften.de)