**Call for papers: Panel “Warrior conceptions in the military”**

Dear colleagues and friends,

please find below a panel proposal for the next ERGOMAS Biennial Conference inTartu, Estonia – July 19-23 2021 (in collaboration with the ISA Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution Research Committee (RC01)).

We invite abstracts of a maximum of 200 words on the theme of warrior conceptions in the military. Please also include a 50-300 word bio and your contact details. Send abstracts to [marentomforde@suedsinn.de](mailto:marentomforde@suedsinn.de) by **15 January 2021** with “Submission” in the subject line. Preliminary chapters of 5,000-8,000 words will be due **1 July 2021**.

Panel proposal:

**Warrior conceptions in the military – Helpful, harmful or even dangerous?**

Over the last few decades, the ongoing warrior-soldier debate in the social sciences strives to capture the diverse and shifting meanings of the warrior concept. This debate has again gained in importance due to the allegations made in the “Brereton report” (November 2020) that members of the Australian Special Air Service Regiment have cruelly treated noncombatants under their control and have killed 39 people between 2005 and 2016 while operating in Afghanistan. If the allegations prove to be true, they amount to war crimes.

These serious charges raise a number of questions not only in Australia, but also for militaries around the world about conceptions of the warrior and military ethics existing in theater as well as at home: What kind of warrior conceptions exist in the armed forces around the globe? Are they all helpful for achieving military goals and for following military norms and values or can they also be harmful or even dangerous? What kind of socialization, training and education is needed to guarantee that service members view themselves as professional soldiers bound by right beliefs and regulations and not as individual fighters who make their own rules? How can we prevent soldiers from turning to committing war crimes when in conflict and war zones and when confronted by diverse challenges connected to asymmetrical warfare? By what kind of ethics and regulations are military units bound who have to deal with combat situations and war experiences far away from public scrutiny of their home societies? How do we prevent the rise of certain military subcultures and identities among i.e. special forces and combat units who adhere to self-developed behavioral patterns and norms that are not congruent with laws and regulations?

Combat capability lies at the heart of the military profession. Soldiers need to be able to fight and kill and at the same time remain team fighters in a disciplined unit without turning towards an unregulated, martial culture that might be represented by harmful warrior concepts. “Warrior” is a multifarious concept and can stand for many, sometimes opposing notions and meanings in different socio-cultural contexts through time and space. This panel will first compare existing warrior conceptions of militaries around the globe and add to a clarification of terminology as terms connected to the warrior concept such as warrior ethos, warrior cult or warrior traits are still loosely defined and can even have opposite meanings. Secondly, we will explore how militaries strive to immunize professional soldiers to shift away from discipline, rules and regulations towards individuals who are unaccountable to the law and who adhere to harmful warrior concepts existing within the military and beyond.

**We welcome abstracts for papers, which deal with the abovementioned topics of the panel. While in Tartu, we will meet to discuss the papers, which will be part of the panel (only 4 papers are allowed) as well as other valuable contributions to develop a new synthesis on the issue of warrior concepts in postmodern times. The aim is to prepare an edited volume on the topic.**