This course explores the gender dimensions of armed conflict. The different phases of a conflict, the participants, the driving forces, the conduct and the consequences of violence – for each of these, scholars and policy-makers have in recent years become increasingly aware of the difference in the roles and experiences of men and women. In this course, the students will learn how academic research integrates considerations of gender in the study of armed conflict.

In the first part of the course, students will be introduced to the different facets of gender theory and its position in studies of armed conflict. Thereafter, seminars will examine in detail several gendered aspects of armed conflict. Among them are the role of women in political decision-making; their role both as perpetrators of violence as combatants (and terrorists) and as victims; and the relationship between masculinity, militarism, and violence. One area of emphasis is the role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Here, the course examines how gender considerations can be integrated in a state’s foreign policy and translated into actual policy, and how gender mainstreaming can be implemented in international peace operations.

The classes will be taught by visiting lecturers, who are leading specialists on their respective topic. The students themselves will play an important role in integrating the components of the course, through class discussions preceding each lecture. Students are expected to have read the relevant literature prior to each seminar, and to have prepared notes for class discussion on the readings and the day’s topic. For the one-hour discussions, students will take turns in preparing presentations on the day’s readings. These discussions, and the combination of assignments, will encourage active learning and critical analysis.
DEADLINES / EXAMS FOR OSLO SEMESTER

(course starts Tuesday 22.08., ends on Friday 08.12.)

XX.09. CPRB essay (2000 words) (15% of 12 units)

(02.10. – 06.10. study week)

22.10. Gender essay (3000 words) (50% of 6 units)

XX.11. Ethics essay (3000 words) (50% of 6 units)

XX.11. CPRB essay (4000 words) (40% of 12 units)

03.12. Gender final exam 3hs (40% of 6 units) (closed book)

XX.12. CPRB final exam 4hs (35% of 12 units) (closed book)

XX.12. Ethics final exam 3hs (40% of 6 units) (closed book)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Essay

Due: 22.10.
Length: 3,000 words
Weighting: 50%
Topic: Of your choice but related to course and to be discussed with, and agreed to, by the course co-ordinator.

Final examination (closed book)

Date: 03.12.
Length: 3 hours
Weighting: 40%

Class participation

Weighting: 10%

Essay guidelines

Please refer to essay guidelines in the Course Handbook.

A penalty of 1 point per day will apply to late submission of essays where an extension has not been sought and approved in advance.
**Gender and Conflict (6 units)**

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Seminar 1: Gender as a dimension of conflict studies

*Helga Hernes*

Gender was introduced as a new dimension in international politics relatively late, but gender is now considered to be an important dimension – at least by some authors. There are several factors that determine the way in which armed conflict affects women: the fact that human rights have become a central factor in international politics, the nature of conflicts, and women’s roles in armed conflicts as well as post-conflict settlements. As long as individuals or the fate of civilians in war did not play a central role in the traditional literature, the absence of women was not as visible. But attention to aspects of human security in international politics has also facilitated seeing the subject in a gender perspective.

**Essential reading**


**Further reading**


Special issue on ‘Women and International Peacekeeping, editors Torunn Tryggestad and Louise Olsson. *International Peacekeeping*, vol.8, summer 2001, nr.2.


Seminar 2: Giving gender equality a place in foreign policy

Guro K. H. Vikør

This lecture will focus on: 1) The progress of promoting women's human rights based on the Convention on Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform of Action; 2) Security Council Resolution 1325 (SR 1325) of 31 October 2000, regarding women, peace, and security; and 3) the consideration of women within developmental policies, and the United Nation's Millennium Goals.

Essential reading

* Beijing Platform for Action
* CEDAW Convention
* Security Council Resolution 1325
* The Norwegian Strategy for Women and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation
* The UN Millennium Goals
Seminar 3: The United Nations and ‘women, peace and security’: the Peacebuilding Commission as a Case

Torunn L. Tryggestad

It is generally accepted that war and conflict have different bearings on women and men. Similarly there is a growing appreciation among both academics and practitioners of the gender specific challenges involved in post conflict peace building. But how – if at all - is this knowledge effectively integrated into policy development and practical field work? UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) states that gender concerns should be integrated into any analysis and planning of peace and security efforts by the UN. The recently established Peacebuilding Commission serves as a good test case of how far the UN and its member states have come in moving from rhetoric to practice on gender. Have gender concerns been integrated into the initial set up and operational procedures of this new inter-governmental body? Or have gender concerns once again been treated as something that can be added on at a later stage?

Essential reading


Relevant websites

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ (UN Home Page on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women)

http://www.womenpeacesecurity.org (NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security)


http://www.peacewomen.org (Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom)

http://www.unifem.org (United Nations Fund for Women)

http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/ (The UN Peacebuilding Commission)

http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ (UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations)
Further reading


Karamé, Kari H. and Torunn L. Tryggestad (2000), *Gender Perspectives on Peace and Conflict Studies*, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO), NUPI, Oslo.


UN Documents


Seminar 4: Introduction to gender theory

J. Peter Burgess

This seminar will give an overview of the central notions of contemporary feminist philosophy, situating it in the history of feminism, and examining its consequences for peace and conflict studies. It will be organized into two main parts: feminist epistemology, and feminist ethics of conflict. The first will delve into the basic questions of theory of knowledge from the feminist perspective: How is knowing gendered? Is scientific or scholarly inquiry gendered? What is value-free knowledge and what is gendered value? The second will examine the way that a gender ‘toolkit’ can help us to see violence, conflict and war in an alternative way.

Essential reading


Further reading


Seminar 5: The Political Psychology of Sexual Violence in War

Inger Skjelsbæk

This lecture will outline different approaches to the political psychological study of gender and conflict, and the use of sexual violence in war in particular. It was the Bosnian war of 1992-1995 which made the international public aware of how sexual violence in war can constitute and effective weapon of war. Yet, rape in war in by no mean a new phenomenon, but it has not, traditionally, been made a subject for political analyses. This seminar will focus on how political psychological theories can help understand the multifaceted workings of sexual violence in war.

Essential reading


Further reading


Seminar 6: Multiple masculinities and the violence of men

Thomas Michael Walle

Leading gender research on men has rejected the idea of a masculinity existing cross-culturally, or even in a given culture. Rather, there are multiple masculinities, and various ways to 'be a man'. However, the violence of men in war and conflict, or even in everyday life 'at peace', is often seen as originating from a natural, untamed or sometimes perverted/distorted, masculinity. The seminar will focus on the social construction of masculinities, and how the violence of men is to be located within this gender imagery. Are there particular contexts (political, social, economic etc.) where male violence and aggression may be regarded as accepted or idealized? Further, we will discuss the competitive aspects of masculinities, based on ethnography from Pakistan where violence and aggression is not part of idealized male practice, but where these practices constitutes part of the cultural domination and power of men.

Essential reading


Further reading

* Other chapters from the books above:


Seminar 7  Gender analysis:  Migration, development and conflict

Jørgen Carling

This lecture deals with the use of gender as an analytical concept in social scientific research and development practice. The first section deals with the shift from ‘women in development’ to ‘gender and development’, with the concepts of ‘gender mainstreaming’ and with the role of men and masculinities within a gender perspective. The second section deals with approaches to gender within migration research, using this as a case to explore the challenges and opportunities that gender-aware researchers are faced with.

Essential reading


Further reading


Seminar 8: Child Soldiers

Scott Gates

The number of child soldiers serving in armed military groups is significant, despite numerous international protocols intended to curb their increase. The breakdown in the taboo against the use of child soldiers has taken place in all regions of the world, with children primarily being used by militia and rebel armies. Children are being inducted at an increasingly early age, and socialized into accepting the notion that brutal violence is an acceptable means by which to achieve personal and group goals. While many NGOs have engaged the issue through advocacy or service-delivery work, Western states have largely refused to do so because the destabilizing effect of the use of child soldiers has largely been confined to intrastate conflicts in fragile states. The main question for this seminar is the following: Why would a military group recruit children? The main argument is that most research on child soldiers focuses on the contextual factors -- what drives kids to join a group? But this begs the question, why do some groups recruit children while most do not?

Essential Reading:


Further reading


Seminar 9: Gender issues in the Sri Lankan peace process

Astrid N. Heiberg

Relating to UN-resolution 1325, the Sri Lanka peace talks have included a subgroup for gender items. The lecturer discusses the first two sessions of the group meetings, in particular relating to the group dynamics.

Essential reading


Further reading


Seminar 10: Female Soldiers: Perceptions and Experiences

Colonel Britt T B Brestrup

This seminar will give an overview of the perceptions and experiences of women within military systems. The lecture will focus on the Norwegian attempts to increase the number of women within the Norwegian Armed Forces and in the international missions in which Norway takes part. Colonel Brestrup will also talk about her own experiences from international missions which include UNIFIL, UNTSO, UNIKOM, SFOR and KFOR.

Essential reading


Further reading


Seminar 11: Demobilization and Political Participation of Female Fighters in Guatemala

Wenche Hauge

This seminar will give an overview of central challenges with regard to the role of women in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. The focus will be on post conflict social and political participation of the ex female fighters in Guatemala, seen in a comparative perspective, drawing on lessons learnt from similar processes in west Africa, East Africa and Central America.

Essential reading


Further reading


Seminar 12: Gender Based Protection in Complex Emergencies

Kristin S. Scharffscher

While war and complex emergencies reduce both men’s and women’s resilience capacities, women and girls find themselves exposed to additional risks that are specific to their gender. At the same time, women also represent great resources in terms of restoring community robustness and foster processes of rehabilitation and peace-building – the main pathways out of a crisis. What factors influence on how systematic gender-based protection is managed during complex emergency operations, and how do international NGOs support women’s efforts to save, heal and rebuild their communities?

Essential reading


Further reading


LECTURERS – BIOGRAPHIES

Colonel Britt T B Brestrup
Britt T B Brestrup, colonel Norwegian Army, at present Principal ADC to His Majesty the King, and Deputy Commandant at The Norwegian National Defence College. Her international experience covers traditional Peacekeeping, observer- and civil humanitarian missions in the Middle East and in Europe. Brestrup served for one year as a fellow at The UN-programme at The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, mainly with focus on The Middle East and The Balkans in the frame of NATO, PfP, OSCE and UN.

J. Peter Burgess
Research Professor at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). A philosopher by training, he has published works on questions of cultural identity, political theory, philosophy of language, philosophy of economics, comparative literature, psychoanalysis and gender theory. His most recent book is Museum Europa: The European Cultural Heritage between Economics and Politics (Kristiansand: Norwegian Academic Press).

Jørgen Carling
A human geographer and researcher at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). He has specialized in international migration and done research within this field using both demographic/statistical and ethnographic methods. He has extensive fieldwork experience from West Africa and Europe and has published in leading international journals.

Scott Gates
Scott Gates (PhD, Michigan; MS Minnesota; MA Michigan) is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Civil War at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), Professor of Political Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), and Associate Editor of the Journal of Peace Research. From 1995 to 2003, he was a faculty member at Michigan State University. Gates has published a number of articles appearing in such journals as the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, and Journal of Peace Research. He is also the author of three books. Scott Gates’ research interests lie in the general areas of economic development, civil conflict, and organization theory.

Wenche Hauge
Senior Researcher at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO). A political scientist by training, she has published works on the causes and dynamics of armed conflict, conflict resolution, dialogue and peaceful conflict management, and on disarmament demobilization, and reintegration processes (DDR). She has also studied the role of women in DDR processes. Her most recent work is a report to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry on the Demobilization and Political Participation of Female Fighters in Guatemala.

Astrid N. Heiberg
PhD, Prof. MD at the University of Oslo; a specialist in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy. President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies 1997-2001. President of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva 1995. President of the Norwegian Red Cross 1993-1999. Norwegian Representative to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

**Helga Hernes**
PhD in Political Science from The Johns Hopkins University. Taught at the University of Bergen 1970 to 1980, research director at the Institute for Social Research, Adjunct Professor at the University of Oslo. Deputy Foreign Minister (State Secretary) 1988 to 1989 and 1990 to 1993. Special Advisor on Peacekeeping in the Ministry from 1996 to 1998. Ambassador to Austria, Slovakia, the United Nations Organizations in Vienna, 1998 to 2002, and to Switzerland, 2002 to 2004. At present she is senior advisor at PRIO

**Kristin S. Scharffscher**
Kristin S. Scharffscher works as a PhD candidate in Crisis Management at the University of Stavanger. She holds a Master of Science degree in Safety and Resilience Management from (then) Stavanger University College, specializing in the safety of women in Sierra Leonean refugee camps, and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Westminster, where she studied how the reporting of rape cases in the press affects women’s position in the British judiciary. Scharffscher occasionally works for the United Nations, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dealing primarily with gender issues within international relief and development. In her PhD project, she investigates the organizational mechanisms that prevent or allow systematic implementation of gender-based protection in complex emergency operations.

**Inger Skjelsbæk**
Inger Skjelsbæk is a senior researcher at the International Peace Research Institute (PRIO). Her academic training is in social psychology and her research encompasses gender and violence, conflict interventions, identity construction, social constructionist theories, sexual violence, Bosnian conflict. Her Ph.D is in political psychology focusing on the aftermath of the use of sexual violence during the Bosnian conflict. Skjelsbæk has an extensive publication record in leading international journals.

**Torunn L. Tryggestad**
Researcher and Ph.D scholar at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) focusing on the impact of UNSR 1325 on peace processes. She has previously been a researcher and co-ordinator of the UN Programme at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). From 1996 to early 2003 she was the co-ordinator of the Training for Peace in Southern Africa Project (TfP). Main areas of interest are the UN and conflict management, women and conflict/peacekeeping and peacekeeping capacity building in Africa. She has spent one year (2003) as an adviser to the UN Section, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Holds an M.Phil degree in political science from the University of Oslo.

**Guro Katharina Vikør**
Ambassador for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Vikør has a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. Trained as a diplomat (aspirant-opplæringen) at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has been posted as a vice-consul at the Norwegian Consulate General in Houston,
Texas, and as a Secretary of Embassy at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C., and her last posting was as a Consul General in Miami, Florida.

**Thomas Michael Walle**  
M Phil in Social Anthropology (University of Oslo, 1999). Curator, Norsk Folkemuseum - the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History. He has conducted research on ethnic minority groups and masculinities in Norway, and has fieldwork experience from Pakistan. He has published on masculinities and gender relations in Pakistan, and on gender and ethnicity in Norway.