

# Gender, peace & security

Department of Gender Studies  
Central European University

Fall 2018/19; 4 credit.

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## Course description

Feminist peace and security scholars have demonstrated the multiple and complex ways that gendered identities, ideologies and power are fundamental to processes of war and militarism, peace and security. No aspect of conflict nor its resolution can be understood fully without the integration of gender as a category of analysis. Moreover, how we understand security, what is to be secured, and what constitutes a threat are all imbued with, and reproduce, gendered ideologies. This course explores contemporary debates on peace, conflict and security through the lens of critical feminist security and IR literature. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of feminist contributions to security theory, as well as introduction to feminist methodologies in the discipline. The course moves from war and militarism, through conflict dynamics, to peace processes, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict transformation. Students also gain significant understanding on the mechanisms of global governance that inform the resolution of conflicts, in particular the key frameworks pertaining to gender, peace and security.

## Learning outcomes

1. Understand and draw on feminist frameworks in security studies and IR.
2. Understand and apply feminist methodological and theoretical frameworks to the study and practice of peace and security.
3. Critically examine how gendered norms, identities and assumptions shape peace and security dynamics.
4. Ability to critically examine national and international policy in conflict management and security.

## Assessment

Participation & attendance = 20%  
Critical commentaries (x2) = 30%  
Research presentation = 20%  
Research essay = 30%

## Week 1

### Seminar 1 Introduction to gender, peace and security (1)

Karin Fierke 2015. *Critical approaches to international security*, Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 44-85 (Chapter 1: Definitions & redefinitions).

Cynthia Enloe 2014. *Bananas, beaches and bases*. 2nd ed. Berkley: The University of California Press. (Chapter 1: Gender makes the world go round).

**Seminar 2 Introduction to gender, peace and security (2)**

Karin Fierke 2015. *Critical approaches to international security*, Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 89-127. (Chapter 2: The proliferation of concepts)

Carol Cohn. 2013. "Women and wars: towards a conceptual framework." In *Women and wars*, edited by Carol Cohn. Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 1-30.

**Week 2**

**Seminar 1 Feminist methodologies**

Sandra Harding 1986. *The science question in feminism*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 15-29.

Brooke Ackerly & Jacqui True. 2008. "Reflexivity in practice: power and ethics in feminist research on International Relations." *International Studies Review* 10(4): 693-707.

**Seminar 2 Power, privilege, gender & race in security**

Anna M. Agathangelou & L.H.M Ling. 2004. "The house of IR: from family power politics to the *poisies* of worldism." *International Studies Review* 6: 21-49.

Pinar Bilgin, 2010. "The "western-centrism" of security studies: "blind spot" or constitutive practice?" *Security Dialogue* 41(6): 615-622.

Peace A. Medie & Alice J. Kang. 2018. "Power, knowledge and the politics of gender in the Global South." *European Journal of Politics and Gender* 1(1-2): 37-54.

**Week 3**

**Seminar 2 Gendering states and sovereignty**

V. Spike Peterson 1992. *Gendered states: feminist (re)visions of International Relations theory*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, pp. 31-64.

Iris Marion Young 2003. "The logic of masculinist protection: reflections on the current security state." *Signs* 29(1): 1-25.

**Seminar 1 Militarism**

Cynthia Enloe. 2000. *Maneuvers: The international politics of militarizing women's lives*. Berkeley: The University of California Press, pp. 1-34.

Victoria M. Basham. 2018. "Liberal militarism as insecurity, desire and ambivalence: gender, race and the everyday geopolitics of war." *Security Dialogue* 49(1-2): 32-43.

## Week 4

### Seminar 2 Gender and security institutions

Carol Cohn. 1987. "Sex and death in the rational world of defense intellectuals." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 12(4): 687-718.

Lauren Wilcox. 2009. "Gendering the cult of the offensive." *Security Studies* 18(2): 214-240.

### Seminar 1 Masculinities

Aaron Belkin. 2012. *Bring me men: military masculinity and the benign façade of American empire 1898-2001*. London: C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., pp. 1-17.

Paul Higate. 2012. "In the business of (in)security? Mavericks, mercenaries and masculinities in the private security company." In Annica Kronsell & Erika Svedberg (eds.) *Making gender, making war: violence, military and peacekeeping practices*. London: Routledge, pp. 182-196.

Marysia Zalewski. 2017. "What's the problem with the concept of military masculinity?" *Critical Military Studies* 3(2): 200-205.

## Week 5

### Seminar 1 Gender and war (1)

Swati Parashar. 2009. "Feminist international relations and women militants: case studies from Sri Lanka and Kashmir." *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 22(2): 235-256.

Myriam Denov & Christine Gervais. 2007. "Negotiating (in)security: agency, resistance, and resourcefulness among girls formerly associated with Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front." *Signs* 32(4): 885-910.

### Seminar 2 Gender and war (2)

Swati Parashar. 2013. "What wars and 'war bodies' know about international relations." *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 26(4): 615-630.

Cockburn, Cynthia. 2010. "Gender relations as causal in militarization and war: a feminist standpoint," *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. 12(2): 139-157.

## Week 6

### Seminar 1 Sexual violence in peace and war

Inger Skjelsbæk 2001. "Sexual violence and war: mapping out a complex relationship." *European Journal of International Relations* 7(2): 211-237.

Sara Meger. 2010. "Rape of the Congo: understanding sexual violence in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 28(2): 119-135.

**Seminar 2      Unpacking the discourse of 'rape as a weapon of war'**

Sara Meger 2016. "The fetishization of sexual violence in international security." *International Studies Quarterly* 60: 149-159.

Rosemary Grey & Laura J. Shepherd 2012. "'Stop rape now?' Masculinity, responsibility and conflict-related sexual violence." *Men and Masculinities* 16(1): 115-135.

**Week 7**

**Seminar 1      The UN's Women, Peace & Security Agenda**

Carol Cohn 2008. "Mainstreaming gender in UN security policy: a path to political transformation?", in Shirin Rai & Georgina Waylen (eds.) *Global governance: feminist perspectives*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 185-206.

Soumita Basu 2016. "The global south writes 1325 (too)." *International Political Science Review* 37(3): 362-374.

**Seminar 2      Critical perspectives on the WPS agenda**

Nicola Pratt 2013. "Reconceptualizing gender, reinscribing racial-sexual boundaries in international security: the case of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security." *International Studies Quarterly* 57(4): 772-783.

Jamie J. Hagen 2016. "Queering women, peace and security." *International Affairs* 92(1): 313-332.

**Week 8**

**Seminar 1      Gender, terror and counter-terror (1)**

Anna M. Agathangelou & L.H.M. Ling. 2004. "Power, borders, security, wealth: Lessons of violence and desire from September 11." *International Studies Quarterly* 48: 517-538.

Melanie Richter-Monpetite. 2007. "Empire, desire and violence: a queer transnational feminist reading of the prisoner 'abuse' in Abu Ghraib and the question of 'gender equality'." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 9(1): 38:59.

**Seminar 2      Gender, terror and counter-terror (2)**

Katherine Brown. 2008. "The promise and perils of women's participation in UK mosques: the impact of securitisation agendas on identity, gender and

community.” *British Journal of Politics & International Relations* 10(3): 472-491.

F. Ni Aolain. 2016. “The ‘war on terror’ and extremism: assessing the relevance of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.” *International Affairs* 92(2): 275-291.

Laleh Khalili. 2011. “Gendered practices of counterinsurgency.” *Review of International Studies* 37(4): 1471-1491.

## Week 9

### Seminar 1 In the aftermath of conflict

Donna Pankhurst. 2008. ‘Post-war backlash violence against women’, in D. Pankhurst (ed.) *Gendered Peace*, London: Routledge.

T. Anne Borer. 2009. “Gendered war and gendered peace. Truth commissions and post-conflict gender violence: lessons from South Africa.” *Violence Against Women* 15(10): 1169-1193.

Annika Björkdahl. 2012. “A gender-just peace? Exploring the post-dayton peace process in Bosnia.” *Peace & Change* 37(2): 286-317.

### Seminar 2 Critiques of peacebuilding practice

Megan Mackenzie 2009. “Securitization and desecuritization: female soldiers and the reconstruction of women in post-conflict Sierra Leone.” *Security Dialogue* 18(2): 241-261.

Sarah Smith. 2018. “Gendered identities in peacebuilding”, in Christine Agius & Dean Keep (eds.) *The politics of identity: place, space and discourse*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 53-70.

## Week 10

### Seminar 1 The problems with peacekeepers

Sarah Smith. 2017. “Accountability and sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations.” *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 71(4): 405-422.

Kathleen Jennings 2014. “Service, sex and security: gendered peacekeeping economies in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.” *Security Dialogue* 45(4): 313-330.

### Seminar 2 The security-development nexus

Maria Stern & Joakim Öjendal, 2010. ‘Mapping the security-development nexus: conflict, complexity, cacophony, convergence?’ *Security Dialogue* 41(1): 5-29.

Mark Duffield, 2010. ‘The liberal way of development and the development-security impasse: exploring the global life-chance divide.’ *Security Dialogue* 41(1): 53-76.

## Week 11

### Seminar 1    **Only human security?**

Audra Mitchell. 2014. "Only human? A worldly approach to security." *Security Dialogue* 45(1): 5-21.