IP36720 Gender, Conflict and Security

Semester Two, 2013-2014

Module Handbook
ADVICE AND SUPPORT WITH YOUR STUDIES

If you need advice and support with your studies, either for this specific module or with your academic progress more generally, there is plenty of help available for you:

- You can talk to your **Module Convenor**, your **Personal Tutor**, or the **Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)**, about all aspects of your studies. Academic staff who are not on research leave have weekly office hours; they can talk through any aspect of your academic life with you.

- You can also talk to the Department's **Support Staff**; they can help you if you have any questions or concerns about things including coursework submission, assessment and exams, rules on progressing to the next year and much more.

- There is lots of useful information in the **Departmental Handbooks** that are available on the ‘About Interpol’ module on Blackboard. The advice covers all aspects of your academic studies whilst you're an Interpol student, and also points you to the relevant University handbooks and regulations.

- **If you’re not sure who to talk to, then get in touch with the DUS, Dr. Anwen Elias (awe@aber.ac.uk).** She’ll often be able to help you directly, or can put you in contact with the relevant person, so that you get the advice and support you need.

So....COME AND TALK TO US!

**IMPORTANT: Rules on coursework submission:**

- Coursework must be submitted by **12 noon** on the day of the deadline.
- **ALL assignments MUST be submitted** (via Blackboard AND hardcopy).
- Coursework submitted after this time will be awarded a **mark of 0**.

***Remember to attach your **individual barcode** to the hardcopy of your essay***

Where students’ assessed work is unavoidably submitted late, special circumstances will be considered on the grounds of illness and severe personal/family problems (e.g. bereavement). Students should fill out a **Special Circumstances form**, supported with appropriate documentation.

The university has instructed that **the following will not be admissible** as special circumstances:

- Computer failure
- Printer queues
- Lack of access to resources
- Illness for which a medical certificate is not available
- Poor time management
- More than one deadline on the same day
- Inability to answer the question or struggling with the material
- Crisis Games, performance productions or Departmental study trips
- Non-academic activities.

If you are not sure how to submit your coursework, there is detailed guidance in the ‘Studying in Interpol’ handbook which is available on Blackboard, in the ‘About Interpol’ module.
EXTRA ACTIVITIES LINKED TO THIS MODULE
While you are studying this module, why not try to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the subject – and develop some extra lines on your CV!

Reading Group
Increasingly, students are organising their own reading groups linked to their modules – why not get involved? Reading groups can help you to improve your grades by providing extra discussion time. This will:
• Help you to understand the material better
• Stretch and deepen your knowledge on the subject
• Provide an opportunity to discuss essay questions and techniques
• Maybe help you to revise for the exam
If you want to set up or join a reading group chat to your module convenor. You can find guidelines on Blackboard on the ‘About Interpol’ site.

Employability: Getting involved in a reading group demonstrates a commitment to put extra effort into your studies that employers will value. It also develops your communication skills, as well as your analytical skills, and if you are an organiser then it demonstrates initiative, imagination and organisation.

Research Groups
There are staff research groups on a whole range of different topics. Many of their events are open to undergraduates and some of them are especially tailored to an undergraduate audience. Why not participate?

The research groups particularly relevant to this module are:
Intelligence and International Security
Gender Studies Research Group

You can just go along to listen and take notes but you might also get the opportunity to raise questions and ideas, especially in those sessions geared towards undergraduate involvement.

You can find out about what is going on by keeping an eye on email alerts, looking at the research group pages on the Departmental website, keeping an eye on the TV in the Main Hall and asking your module convenor.

Employability: participating in a research group event signals to employers that you have intellectual engagement above and beyond the norm – that you are prepared to go the extra mile, and are not just a follower but aspire to be an independent thinker. It also allows you to engage professionally in a professional arena which improves your communication skills and brings invaluable experience.

Other Activities
There are lots of other activities that might well be useful for your module and/or help you to develop skills, such as the Carr Special Seminars, the Carr Student Conference and the Crisis Game. Keep an eye out for email alerts – if you have any queries, ask the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Anwen Elias awe@aber.ac.uk.
MODULE IP36720
Gender, Conflict and Security

Introduction

At a time when the term “gender mainstreaming” has become common in the language of states and non-governmental organizations alike, this module will consider how the concept of gender has been applied to issues of conflict and security. Students will engage with academic debates about the ways in which security and conflict are gendered and will explore the issues raised in these debates in detail by considering a range of historical and contemporary cases drawn from around the world, including the experiences of child soldiers, the extent and nature of gender-based violence in war, peace activism, peacekeeping and post-war peace building.

Contact Details:

Module Convenor:
Dr Jenny Mathers
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Tel. 01970 622705
Email: zzk@aber.ac.uk

Seminar Tutors:
Lydia Cole
Room 0.05, International Politics Building
Email: lyc3@aber.ac.uk

Sarah Jamal
Room 0.09, International Politics Building
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Lectures (50 minutes each)

Attendance at lectures is not compulsory but it is strongly recommended, as lectures will provide valuable background information and will introduce issues that will be developed in seminar discussions.

1. Introduction: exploring the meanings of gender, conflict and security
2. The project of gendering the study of IR and security
3. Femininities and masculinities in war and peace
4. Gendering peace activism in the West and in the developing world
5. Gender and political violence: concepts and debates
6. Gender and political violence: cases
7. Child soldiers: why do boys and girls go to war?
8. Child soldiers in the post-conflict period: becoming civilians again
9. Displaced persons and refugees: gendered ways of surviving
10. Displaced persons and refugees: cases
11. Gender-based violence in war: debates and dilemmas
12. Gender-based violence in war: cases
14. Peacekeeping as a gendered activity
15. Gender and the return to peace
16. Gender, conflict and security: concluding thoughts
Seminars (50 minutes each)

Attendance of seminars is compulsory. Students who miss a seminar must provide an explanation for their absence to the module convenor.

Students are expected to prepare for each topic and contribute to the discussion. Students are advised to read at least 3-4 sources (such as articles or chapters of books) to prepare adequately for a seminar. These should include but not be limited to the two items of essential reading at the beginning of the reading list for each topic.

Students will be asked to prepare brief comments based on short documents available on Blackboard and present them to their seminar groups as (timed) 3-minute presentations. The assignments for 3-minute presentations will be made in the first seminar.

Seminar performance will be assessed. Each student will be given a mark for their performance in each of the 8 seminars, and a separate mark for their 3 minute presentation. Any excused absences will be removed from the equation. Any unexcused absences will result in a mark of zero for the seminar concerned. The 9 marks will be averaged to form the mark for seminar performance, which will comprise 10% of the module mark.

1. Gendering conflict and security

We will begin the seminars for this module by considering critiques of traditional and dominant approaches to the study of conflict and security in International Relations (IR) that have been made by feminist scholars. The discussion will focus on the following questions:

Why has so much feminist criticism of security and IR started with the question “where are the women”? What does that question, and the answers that have been given to it, tell us?

Why has traditional IR struggled to incorporate gender into its analysis?

Where do masculinity and femininity fit into the study of conflict and security? Do they have a place in such a study?

What might a gendered approach to conflict and security look like?
2. Is peace activism women’s work?

Although many peace activist groups are composed of both men and women and some are predominantly or entirely male, peace activism remains strongly associated with women. We will explore some examples of women’s peace activism as well as consider some of the implications of this relationship between women and peace, considering in particular the following questions:

Are women “naturally” more peaceful and peace-loving than men?

What advantages are there for women peace activists in emphasizing their status as women, mothers and sisters? What problems, if any, can this create for them?

What issues does an involvement in peace activism raise for men and for masculinity?

What makes for effective peace activism? How relevant is gender in this equation?

3. Men, women and political violence

In this seminar we go to the opposite extreme in comparison with the previous topic, and consider issues of gender in relation to political violence, especially the use of terror tactics. In recent years there has been increasing emphasis on women’s involvement in political violence and we will examine some of this literature, especially the following questions:

Why do women choose to participate in political violence? Are women’s reasons for making such a choice very different from those of men?

Why is it widely regarded as more shocking when women actively participate in political violence than when men do this?

Why do some groups that use political violence make more extensive use of women than others? What are the advantages and disadvantages to a group of using men versus women to carry out such acts?

Does a focus on women’s involvement help us to gain a better understanding of political violence?
4. **Child soldiers: when boys and girls go to war**

This topic examines the phenomenon of child soldiers, which has increasingly become a feature of conflicts, especially civil wars. The discussion will focus mainly on such questions as:

Why do children become soldiers? Why do armies or paramilitary groups want them?

Should we regard child soldiers purely as victims?

Why has much of the literature on child soldiers focused, in fact, on boys?

What do we learn about child soldiers and about the conflicts in which they participate from considering the experiences of both boys and girls?

5. **Displaced persons and refugees**

In this topic we will consider the gendered dimensions of the experience of becoming and surviving as a war refugee or displaced person, especially:

Are there significant differences between men’s and women’s experiences as refugees from war?

In what ways do men’s and women’s roles undergo changes when they become refugees?

How are gender identities affected (whether reaffirmed, challenged or transformed) as a result of war displacement?

6. **Gender-based violence in war: targeting men and women**

In this seminar we will consider the ways in which gender-based violence is a feature of war. Since the wars in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the rape of women in war has received increased attention. Our discussion will focus not only on gender-based violence against women but also the ways in which men are targets, including such questions as:

Why has the rape of women and girls by enemy (male) soldiers in war traditionally been taken for granted as an inevitable part of war?

Why has this attitude increasingly been challenged since the end of the Cold War?

In what ways and why is gender-based violence directed against men and boys in wartime?

What does a focus on gender-based violence add to our understanding of conflict and security?
7. Making Women Part of the Solution? UN Security Council Resolutions and Peacekeeping

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 marked the start of the international community’s formal recognition of the particular impact that war has on women and on the roles that women can play in bringing conflict to an end. In this seminar we will consider UNSCR 1325 along with subsequent Security Council Resolutions on women and gender. We will also examine one of the ways in which the UN and member states have attempted to bring women into peacekeeping, discussing such questions as:

Should the United Nations concern itself with gender-related issues?

How effective have UNSCR 1325 and other “gender resolutions” been in making the UN and member states more sensitive to gender?

Why are there relatively few women involved in peacekeeping missions?

Are peacekeeping missions particularly challenging for “traditional” soldiers?

8. Gender and the Post-Conflict Return to ‘Peace’

In this final seminar we will examine some of the gendered dimensions of the post-conflict period. In particular we will consider:

What roles do women and men play in peacebuilding processes?

What are some of the ways that gender issues become visible (or invisible) during post-conflict periods?

To what extent do pre-war norms get re-established after the conflict has officially ended?
Assessment

Students will be assessed by a combination of seminar performance and two essays. Seminar performance will be worth 10% of the module mark. There will be two 3,000 word essays, each worth 45% of the module mark.

Essays

Students should choose one question from each of the two lists below. Sources to be consulted can be found in the appropriate sections of the reading list. Essays should be approximately 3,000 words long (plus or minus 10%, footnotes containing references and bibliography not included in word count) and should be word processed. The essay should be submitted electronically and a hard copy handed in to the Departmental Office no later than 12 noon on the deadlines stated below. Please see further guidelines issued by the International Politics Department on handing in essays for full details. Please leave generous margins for comments.

Some tips on writing essays

- Address the essay question. The single biggest problem that many undergraduates have in writing essays is failing to address the question. You need to read widely and to demonstrate your understanding of the topic, but do that by addressing the question directly. An essay that presents all the information you were able to find out about the topic but without a focus on the question will not get a very high mark.

- The opening paragraph or two should introduce the reader to the essay. You may or may not choose to do this by telling the reader your conclusions or a summary of your answer to the essay question, but you should at least indicate where the essay is headed.

- The closing paragraph or two should conclude the essay. You should take this opportunity to draw together the themes, summarise your argument and suggest some conclusions.

- The essay should make an argument.

- An argument is not a set of unsubstantiated assertions. You need to provide supporting evidence for the statements that you make.

- You must acknowledge your debt to other scholars if you have used their ideas or their words. You should do this in accordance with the accepted Department styles for referencing, set out in Writing and Referencing in Interpol.

- Every essay should include a bibliography of sources consulted. This list should be arranged in alphabetical order by the surnames of the authors.
• The research base for your essays should be as strong as possible. It is not sufficient to rely only on sources that provide an overview of the topic. You should read chapters, articles and books that focus on the topic in detail to gain a deeper understanding of the relevant issues.

• Pay attention to the presentation of your essay. It should be as well-written as you can make it. It should be clear. If the reader has to struggle to understand your argument, then you haven’t done your job very well. Do everything you can to ensure that you have used words correctly, that you have spelled words correctly, that your essay is grammatically correct and that you have used the appropriate punctuation. If in doubt, ask a friend to read through the final draft before you submit it.

• For further guidance, see Writing and Referencing in Interpol. The module convenor is happy to discuss essay writing with any student in office hours.
Essay One: Due on 17 March 2014

1. What insights, if any, do we gain from considering issues of conflict and security from the perspective of gender?

2. What issues are raised in the association of women with peace activism?

3. Why do scholars, policy makers and societies find the participation of women in acts of political violence so fascinating?

4. In what ways do the experiences of boy soldiers differ from those of girl soldiers, and how significant are those differences?

Essay Two: Due on 12 May 2014

5. How is gender relevant to our understanding of war refugees?

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of treating rape as a weapon of war?

7a. To what extent has United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 lived up to the expectations created by its passage?

OR

7b. What is the relationship between masculinity and peacekeeping?

8. What are the benefits of involving women in peacebuilding and post conflict reconstruction? Are there costs in not doing so?
Reading List

Students are advised to read at least 3-4 sources (for example, journal articles or book chapters) in preparation for each seminar. The reading list is organised by seminar topic (and corresponding essay question) and each topic begins with a few items of essential reading which all students are advised to read in preparation for the seminar. All essential reading is taken from journals that are available on electronic subscription using Primo.

No one book covers the full range of issues and cases that we will be examining in this module, but the following three books between them do cover a fair amount of the material and they will be available to purchase at the Arts Centre Bookshop:

Carol Cohn, ed., *Women and Wars* (Cambridge: Polity, 2013) Please note that this book is not available in the Hugh Owen Library although it is in the National Library of Wales.


Dyan Mazurana, Angela Raven-Roberts and Jane Parpart, eds, *Gender, Conflict and Peacekeeping* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005)
**Topic 1: Gendering Conflict and Security**

**Essential reading:**

**Further reading:**
Works that explore gender issues in relation to conflict and security
R.W. Connell and James W. Messerschmidt, "Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept", *Gender and Society*, Vol. 19, No. 6, 2005
Rebecca Grant and Kathleen Newland, eds, *Gender and International Relations* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991) chapters 2, 3, 4 and 10
C. Hooper, *Manly States: Masculinities, International Relations and Gender Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000) chapters 1, 2 and 3
V. Spike Peterson, *Gendered States: Feminist (Re)visions of International Relations Theory* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner, 1992) chapter 1
Betty Reardon, *Sexism and the War System* (New York: Teachers College Press Research Center,
Robin May Schott, “Gender and ‘Postmodern War’”, *Hypatia*, Vol. 11, No. 4, 1996
Laura Sjoberg and Caron E. Gentry, “Reduced to Bad Sex: Narratives of Violent Women from the Bible to the War on Terror”, *International Relations*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2008

**Examples of gendered readings of conflict and security**
Topic 2: Is Peace Activism Women’s Work?

**Essential reading:**

**Further reading:**
L. Hopkins, “Fighting to be seen and heard: A tribute to four Western Australian peace activists”, *Women’s Studies International Forum*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 1999
Dyan Mazurana, Angela Raven-Roberts and Jane Parpart, eds, *Gender, Conflict and Peacekeeping* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005) chapter 12

Betty Reardon, *Sexism and the War System* (New York: Teachers College Press Research Center, 1985) chapters 4 and 5


Inger Skjelsbaek and Dan Smith, eds, *Gender, Peace and Conflict* (London: Sage for Peace Research Institute, Oslo, 2001) chapters 2-4, 7-8, 10


Topic 3: Men, Women and Political Violence

**Essential reading:**

**Further reading:**
Mia Bloom, *Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005), chapter 7
Ruth Glynn, “Writing the Terrorist Self: The Unspeakable Altery of Italy’s Female Perpetrators”, Feminist Review, Issue 92, 2009
Margaret Gonzalez-Perez, Women and Terrorism: Female Activity in Domestic and International Terror Groups (London and New York: Routledge, 2008)
Laura Sjoberg, “Feminist Interrogations of Terrorism/Terrorist Studies”, International Relations, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2009 [possible essential reading]
Anne Speckhard, “The Emergence of Female Suicide Terrorists”, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Vol. 31, No. 11, 2008

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Prifysgol Aberystwyth
Aberystwyth University
The Department of International Politics

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Topic 4: Child Soldiers: When Boys and Girls Go To War

Essential reading:

Further reading:
Topic 5: Displaced Persons and Refugees

Essential reading:

Further reading:
Peter Kabachnik et. al., “Traumatic Masculinities: the gendered geographies of Georgian IDPs from Abkhazia”, Gender, Place and Culture, Vol. 20, No. 6, 2013
Nadia Latif, “‘It was better during the war’: Narratives of everyday violence in a Palestinian refugee camp”, Feminist Review, No. 101, 2012
Jay M. Marlowe, “‘Walking the line’: Southern Sudanese masculinities and reconciling one’s past with the present’, Ethnicities, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2012
Topic 6: Gender-Based Violence in War: Targeting Men and Women

**Essential reading:**

**Further reading:**
Dyan Mazurana, Angela Raven-Roberts and Jane Parpart, eds, *Gender, Conflict and Peacekeeping* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005) chapters 3, 4, 7
Betty Reardon, *Sexism and the War System* (New York: Teachers College Press Research Center, 1985) chapter 3

Essential reading:

Further reading:


Dyan Mazurana, Angela Raven-Roberts and Jane Parpart, eds, *Gender, Conflict and Peacekeeping* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005) chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-11, 13

L.L. Miller and C. Moskos, “Humanitarians or Warriors: Race, Gender and Combat Status in Operation Restore Hope”, *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 21, No. 4, 1995 (not available electronically)


Topic 8: Gender and the Post-Conflict Return to “Peace”

**Essential reading:**

**Further reading:**