**Gender, peace & conflict**

**Winter – 4 credit**

Dr Sarah Smith

**Course description and approach**

Despite decades of peace and security research, protracted conflicts remain a significant security issue in global politics. Feminist peace and security scholars have demonstrated the multiple and complex ways that gendered identities and norms are fundamental to the processes of war, militarism and peace. No aspect of conflict nor its resolution can be understood fully without the integration of gender as a category of analysis. This course explores contemporary debates on peace, conflict and security through the lens of critical feminist security and IR literature. The unit begins by establishing traditional understandings, explanations and perceptions of war and security. It then moves to developing feminist methodological and theoretical positions, which are then used to analyse debates and issues in the fields of peace and security. 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 and 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 conflict and its resolution.
3. Critically examine how gendered norms, identities and assumptions shape the process peace and security dynamics.
4. Ability to critically examine national and international policy in conflict management and security.

**Assessment**

Participation & attendance = 20%

Research presentation = 30%

Research essay = 50%

*Participation & attendance – 20%, ongoing*

Active participation from all students is required. You are expected to attend every seminar and engage actively in the conversation, based on the weekly readings and your understanding/interpretation of them. Please come to each class prepared for informed discussion.

*Research presentation – Week 11, 30%*

Each student is required to present on the topic they will be pursuing for the final research essay. The presentation provides students the opportunity to clarify their thinking in relation to their research essay, and to receive feedback on approach/content from myself and their peers. Presentations are expected to be roughly 10 minutes in length, and 5 minutes will be allowed for questions and discussion after. You should: 1) provide a summary of your research question and any case study/ies; 2) outline your main contention and how you will make this case; 3) identify key sources and position your argument in relation to existing literature.

You are required to bring the title of your presentation/essay and a 100-200 word abstract, in hard copy, to the first seminar of week 9.

*Research essay – April 6, 50%*

Students are required to write a research essay on a topic of their choosing, related to course themes, not more than 4000 words (excluding reference and bibliography). The research essay is a chance for you to explore an issue important to you, drawing on the themes, concepts and theories covered in the course. You are required to develop the topic independently but of course you can discuss in consultation with me, and you will also have an opportunity to think through your topic in preparing your presentation (week 11), in the abstract you have developed prior (week 9), and a chance to discuss any final issues in the last seminar for the term (week 12). Your essay is expected to be fully researched and referenced and demonstration of significant independent research is required. Essays will be submitted on Moodle via Turnitin.

**Week 1**

**Seminar 1 Introduction to the course**

Paul D. Williams 2008. ‘War’, in Paul D. Williams (ed.) *Security studies: an introduction,* London: Routledge, pp. 151-170

**Seminar 2 Traditional approaches to security & war**

Karin Fierke 2015. *Critical approaches to international security*, Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 44-85.

Laura Sjoberg 2013. *Gendering global conflict: towards a feminist theory of war,* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 13-35.

Further reading:

*The fog of war: eleven lessons from the life of Robert McNamara.* Dir. Errol Morris. Sony Pictures Classics, 2003. Documentary. Available at: <https://vimeo.com/149799416>

C. L. Glaser 2012. ‘Realism’, in A. Collins (ed.) *Contemporary Security Studies*, 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

P. Morgan 2012. ‘Liberalism’, in A. Collins (ed) *Contemporary Security Studies*.

**Week 2**

**Seminar 1 The critical turn in security studies**

Karin Fierke 2015. *Critical approaches to international security*, Cambridge: Polity Press. Ch 2: The proliferation of concepts.

**Seminar 2 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.

Further reading:

Jacqui True. 2005. ‘Feminism’, in Scott Burchill et al. (eds.) *Theories of International Relations*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 213-234.

Lene Hansen 2014. ‘Ontologies, epistemologies, methodologies’, in Laura J. Shepherd (ed.) *Gender matters in global politics: a feminist introduction to International Relations,* London: Routledge, pp. 14-23.

Laura J. Shepherd 2014. ‘Sex or gender? Bodies in global politics and why gender matters’, in Laura J. Shepherd (ed.) *Gender matters in global politics: a feminist introduction to International Relations,* London: Routledge, pp. 24-35.

Robert Keohane 1989. ‘International Relations theory: contributions of a feminist standpoint.’ *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 18(2): 245–53.

**Week 3**

**Seminar 1 Gendering states and sovereignty**

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

Johanna Kantola 2007. ‘The gendered reproduction of the state in International Relations.’ *British Journal of Politics & International Relations* 9: 270-283

Further reading:

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

Cynthia Weber 2016. *Queer international relations: sovereignty, sexuality and the will to knowledge,* New York: Oxford University Press.

**Seminar 2 Bringing in the everyday**

Cynthia Enloe 2014. *Bananas, beaches and bases.* 2nd ed. Berkley: The University of California Press. Ch 1: Gender makes the world go round; and Ch 9: The personal is international, the international is personal.

**Week 4**

**Seminar 1 Post-colonial perspectives in/on IR and security**

T. Barkawi & M. Laffey 2006. ‘The post-colonial moment in security studies’, *Review of International Studies* 32: 329-352.

Anna M. Agathangelou & Heather M. Turcotte. 2014. ‘Post-colonial theories and challenges to first world-ism,’ in Laura J. Shepherd (ed.) *Gender matters in global politics.* London: Routledge.

Further reading

G. Chowdhry & S. Nair. 2004. ‘Power in a postcolonial world: race, gender and class in international relations’, in G. Chowdhry & S. Nair (eds.) *Power, postcolonialism and international relations.* London: Routledge, pp. 1-32.

**Seminar 2 Feminist security studies**

Laura Sjoberg, “Introduction to *Security Studies:* Feminist Contributions,” *Security Studies* 18 (2009): 183-213.

Laura J. Shepherd 2013. ‘The state of feminist security studies: continuing the conversation.’ *International Studies Perspectives.* 14: 436-439.

Teresia Teaiwa & Claire Slatter 2013. ‘*Samting nating:* Pacific waves at the margins of feminist security studies.’ *International Studies Perspectives.* 14: 447-450.

Further reading:

Christine Sylvester 2013. ‘Passing American security.’ *International Studies Perspectives.* 14: 444-446.

*Politics & Gender* special issue.

**Week 5**

**Seminar 1 Masculinities**

Hearn, Jeff. 2012. “Men/masculinities: war/militarism – searching (for) the obvious connections?” in Annica Kronsell and Erika Svedberg (eds.) *Making gender, making war: violence, military and peacekeeping practices*. London: Routledge, pp. 35-50.

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.

Further reading:

Charlotte Hooper 2001. *Manly states: masculinities, international relations and gender politics.* New York: Columbia University Press.

David Duriesmith 2017. *Masculinity and new war: the gendered dynamics of contemporary armed conflict.* London: Routledge.

M. Zalewski & J. Parpart (eds) 1998. *The “man” question in International Relations*. Boulder CO: Westview Press.

**Seminar 2 Militarism**

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

Further reading

Judith Hicks Stiehm 1982. “The protected, the protector, the defender.” *Women’s Studies International Forum* 3(3/4): 367-376.

L. Sjoberg & J. Peet 2011, “A(nother) dark side of the protection racket.” *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 12(2): 163-182.

C. Cohn. 2013. ‘Women and wars: towards a conceptual framework’, in C. Cohn (ed.) *Women and wars,* Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 1-30.

Cynthia Cockburn 2014. ‘Militarism’, in Laura J. Shepherd (ed.) *Gender matters in global politics,* London: Routledge.

**Week 6**

**Seminar 1 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.

Further reading:

Carol Cohn 1993. ‘Wars, wimps and women: talking gender and thinking war,’ in Miriam Cooke & Angela Woollacott (eds.) *Gendering war talk.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 227-246.

Vandra Harris & Andrew Goldsmith 2010. ‘Gendering transnational policing: experiences of Australian women in international policing operations’, *International Peacekeeping* (17): 2.

**Seminar 2 Discourse and power**

Lauren Wilcox 2011. ‘Beyond sex/gender: the feminist body of security.’ *Politics & Gender* 7(4): 595-560.

Butler, Precarious life, grievable life.

**Week 7**

**Seminar 1 Sexual violence in peace and war**

Rashida Manjoo & Calleigh McRaith 2011. ‘Gender-based violence and justice in conflict and post-conflict areas.’ *Cornell International Law Journal* 44(1): 11-31.

Lori Handrahan. 2004. ‘Conflict, gender, ethnicity and post-conflict reconstruction’, *Security Dialogue* 35(4): 429-442.

Further reading

Rhonda Copelon 2000. ‘Gender crimes as war crimes: integrating crimes against women into International Criminal Law’ *McGill Law Journal* 46: 217-240.

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

Susan Brownmiller 1975. *Against our will.* New York: Fawcett Columbine.

Elisabeth Rehn & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf 2002. *Women, war, peace: the independent experts’ assessment on the impact of armed conflict on women and women’s role in peacebuilding.* New York: UNIFEM. Ch 1: Violence against women.

Anonymous. *A woman in Berlin.*

**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.

Further reading

Maria Eriksson Baaz & Maria Stern (2013) *Sexual violence as a weapon of war? Perceptions, prescriptions, problems in the Congo and beyond,* New York: Zed Books, pp. 42-63.

Jacqui True (2012) *The political economy of violence against women,* Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter: ‘New and old tactics of war’.

Sarah Chynoweth 2017. *“We keep it in our hearts” – Sexual violence against men and boys in the Syria crisis.* UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) October 2017: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5a128e814.html>

**Week 8**

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

Karen Barnes 2011. ‘The evolution and implementation of UNSCR 1325: an overview,’ in Funmi Olonisakin et al. (eds.) *Women, peace and security: translating policy into practice.* London: Routledge, pp. 15-33.

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

Further reading:

Laura J. Shepherd 2017. ‘The Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the United Nations’, in Anthony Burke & Rita Parker (eds.) *Global insecurity: futures of global chaos and governance.* London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 139-158.

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.

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

Sheri Lynn Gibbings 2011. ‘No angry women at the United Nations: political dreams and cultural politics of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.’ *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 13(4): 522-538.

Paul Kirby & Laura J. Shepherd 2016. ‘The futures past of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.’ *International Affairs* 92(2): 373-392.

Further reading:

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.

Nicola Pratt & Sophie Richter-Devroe. 2011. ‘Critically examining UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.’ *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 13(4): 489-503.

Nadine Puechguirbal 2010. ‘Discourses on gender, patriarchy and Resolution 1325: a textual analysis of UN documents.’ *International Peacekeeping* 17(2): 172-187.

**Week 9**

**Seminar 1 In the aftermath of conflict**

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

Megan MacKenzie 2016. ‘Gender and post-conflict security,’ in Simona Sharoni et al. (eds.) *Handbook on Gender and War.* Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd., pp. 483-503.

Further reading:

L. Shepherd & C. Hamilton (2016) ‘Gender and peacebuilding’, in S. Sharoni et al. (eds.) *Handbook on Gender and War,* Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd., pp. 467-482.

Sanam Anderlini 2007. *Women building peace: what they do, why it matters.* London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

**Seminar 2 Human security**

Heidi Hudson 2005. ‘“Doing” security as though humans matter: a feminist perspective on gender and the politics of human security.’ *Security Dialogue* 36(2): 155-174.

Further reading:

Mary-Jane Fox 2004. ‘Girl soldiers: human security and gendered insecurity.’ *Security Dialogue* 35(4).

Natasha Marhia 2013. ‘Some humans are more human than others: troubling the “human” in human security from a feminist perspective.’ *Security Dialogue* 44(1): 19-35.

**Week 10**

**Seminar 1 Feminist 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.

Heidi Hudson 2012. ‘A double-edged sword of peace? Reflections on the tension between representation and protection in gendering liberal peacebuilding.’ *International Peacekeeping* 19(4): 443-460.

Further reading:

Sarah Smith. 2018. ‘Gendered identities in peacebuilding’, in Christine Agius & Dean Keep (eds.) *Making, displacing and disrupting identity: discourses, culture and politics.* Manchester: Manchester University Press.

**Seminar 2 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.

Further reading

Paul Higate & Marsha Henry 2004. ‘Engendering (in)security in peace support operations.’ *Security Dialogue* 35(4): 481-498.

Jasmine-Kim Westendorf & Louise Searle 2017. ‘Sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations: trends, policy responses and future directions.’ *International Affairs* 93(2): 365-387.

**Week 11**

**Seminar 1 Research presentations**

**Seminar 2 Research presentations**

**Week 12**

**Seminar 1 Ethics and global security**

A. Burke, M. McDonald & K. Lee-Koo 2014. *Ethics and Global Security,* New York: Routledge, pp. 1-21.

Further reading:

Rita Parker & Anthony Burke 2017. ‘The United Nations and global security,’ in Anthony Burke & Rita Parker (eds.) *Global insecurity: futures of global chaos and governance.* London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 347-367.

Jonna Nyman & Anthony Burke (eds.) 2016. *Ethical security studies: a new research agenda.* Oxon: Routledge.

**Seminar 2 Conclusion and final essay workshop**

NO READINGS.