

International Relations/Political Science

Academic year 2019-2020

Feminist Approaches to War and Security

RI-SP108 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Fridays, 12.15-14.00

Course Description

In order to advance intersectional approaches to war and security which foreground feminist questions, this course puts feminist scholarship into conversation with critical approaches to security, war, and militarism. We will interrogate the binary constructions of masculinity and femininity upon which war and systems of militarism depend as well as how such gendered constructions always intersect with other systems of power such as race, sexuality, capitalism, and (neo)colonialism.

The first half of the course will engage a variety of critical approaches to war, militarism, and security, including scholarship from the fields of critical security studies, feminist security studies, postcolonial studies, and poststructuralist theory. In the second half of the course, these critical theories will be put into conversation with issues which preoccupy feminist scholars focused on war and security. Such issues include: women's rights, gender equality and development; sexual and gender-based violence; border security; the privatization of military contractors and security; 'humanitarian war' and imperial feminism; and the 'global war on terror,' counterterrorism, and the countering violent extremism agenda. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to introduce students to a broad range of critical approaches to the study of war, militarism and security which enable productive, feminist interventions.

> PROFESSOR

Elizabeth Mesok
elizabeth.mesok@gmail.com

Office: MdP-P2-632
Office Hours: By appointment only

> ASSISTANT

Vanessa Gauthier Vela
vanessa.gauthiervela@graduateinstitute.ch

Office: P2-601
Office hours: Tuesdays 10h15-12h15

Syllabus

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation (25%)

Students are required to come to all classes having closely and critically read the assigned texts and prepared to engage in conversation with their peers. Please bring to class the readings for a given day; the text can either be in hard copy or digital, but please make sure you are able to refer to it easily. This course is discussion based and your attention and participation are required. If you feel uncomfortable speaking up in class or prefer to communicate in alternative ways, please speak with me privately. Class participation requires you to show up physically — but also intellectually, thoughtfully, and respectfully to engage your classmates and professor.

Discussion Leaders (20%)

For each class selected students will be responsible for presenting the main theoretical and/or methodological contributions of the readings to the class. The student(s) will *not* summarize the readings in their entirety, but rather identify the main arguments of the text and discuss the theoretical and/or methodological interventions made by the authors. The presentation will be 15 minutes, and end with at least three questions posed to the class in order to generate class discussion. While you are not expected to have complete mastery of the scholarship, you are expected to be able to follow lines of argumentation and, if you lose the argument, you must be able to point that out and let that prompt discussion with your classmates.

Op-Ed (20%)

Inspired by Carol Cohn's op-ed on gender and security published in *The New York Times* in 2018, this assignment will explore the publication of feminist analyses of war and security in a popular forum. Students will write an op-ed or opinion piece (800-1000 words) of publishable quality on a current issue related to gender, war, or security. The topic might be one we cover in class, but it could also be something we don't address that you would like to know more about. The choice is yours. Regardless of the selected topic, this piece of writing should not be descriptive but provocative with a clear grasp of the issue(s).

This assignment will serve as the genesis for your final writing project, giving you a chance to develop a working hypothesis on an issue that you will go on to explore more in-depth in your final research paper. Students will receive feedback on the op-ed and are to meet with the professor to discuss next steps for the final paper. **A hard copy of the assignment is due November 1, 2019 in class.**

Final Paper (35%)

This final assignment will build on the topic identified in the op-ed. The paper must follow the conventions of academic research and writing and be approximately 15 pages in length. **The assignment is due December 30, 2019 via email.**

COURSE OUTLINE

September 20: Welcome and Introduction

In class film: *War Redefined* (2011)

Carol Cohn (2018) "The Perils of Mixing Masculinity and Missiles," *The New York Times* January, 5.

PART I: CRITICAL APPROACHES

September 27: Rethinking 'Security'

Keith Krause and Michael C. Williams (1996) "Broadening the Agenda of Security Studies: Politics and Methods," *Mershon International Studies Review* (40)2: 229-254.

Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams (2015) "Introduction: Mapping Critical Security Studies and Travelling without Maps," in *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*, 2nd edition, pp. 1-11.

Laura J. Shepherd (2013) "Introduction: Critical Approaches to Security in Contemporary Global Politics" in *Critical Approaches to Security: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*, pp. 1-8.

October 4: Feminist Approaches to Security

Laura J. Shepherd (2013) "Feminist Security Studies," in *Critical Approaches to Security: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*, pp. 11-23.

Laura Sjoberg (2016) "What, and Where, is Feminist Security Studies?" *Journal of Regional Security* (2)11: 143-161.

Annick T.R. Wibben, "Introduction: Feminists Study War," in *Researching War: Feminist Methods, Ethics and Politics*, pp. 1-16.

Eric M. Blanchard (2003) "Gender, International Relations, and the Development of Feminist Security Theory," *Signs* 28(4): 1289-1312.

October 11: Feminist Approaches to War and Militarism

Carol Cohn (2013) "Women and Wars: Toward a Conceptual Framework," in *Women and Wars*, 1-35.

Annick T.R. Wibben (2018) "Why We Need to Study (US) militarism: A Critical Feminist Lens," *Security Dialogue* 49(1-2): 136-148.

Paola Bacchetta, et al. (2002) "Transnational Feminist Practices Against War," *Meridians* 2 (2): 302-308.

October 18: Postcolonial Approaches to War and Security

Tarak Barkawi and Mark Laffey (2006) "The Postcolonial Moment in Security Studies," *Review of International Studies* 32(2): 329-352.

Swati Parashar (2016) "Feminism and Postcolonialism: (En)gendering Encounters," *Postcolonial Studies* 19(4): 371-377.

Shampa Biswas (2013) "Post-colonial Security Studies," in Laura J. Shepherd (ed.) *Critical Approaches to Security: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*, pp. 89-99.

October 25: Post-structural Approaches to War and Security

Anthony Burke (2013) "Post-structural security studies," in Laura J. Shepherd (ed.) *Critical Approaches to Security: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*, pp. 77-88.

Judith Butler (2004) "Preface" and "Explanation and Exoneration, Or What We Can Hear," in *Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence*, pp. 1-18.

Luiza Bialasiewicz, David Campbell, Stuart Elden, Stephen Graham, Alex Jeffrey and Alison J. Williams (2007) "Performing Security: The Imaginative Geographies of Current US Strategies," *Political Geography* 26: 405-422.

PART II: CRITICAL APPLICATIONS

November 1: Gender Equality, Security and Development

Marchand, Marianne H. (2009) "The Future of Gender and Development after 9/11: Insights from Postcolonial Feminism and Transnationalism," *Third World Quarterly* 30(5): 921-935.

Bina D'Costa (2016) "Gender Justice and (In)security in Pakistan and Afghanistan," *Postcolonial Studies* 19(4): 409-426.

Kalpana Wilson (2015) "Towards a Radical Re-appropriation: Gender, Development and Neoliberal Feminism," *Development and Change* 46(4): 803-32.

Natalie Florea Hudson (2009) "Securitizing Women's Rights and Gender Equality," *Journal of Human Rights* 8(1): 53-70.

November 8: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Jamie J. Hagen (2016) "Queering Women, Peace and Security," *International Affairs* 92(2): 313-332.

Valorie K. Vojdik (2014) "Sexual Violence Against Men and Women in War: A Masculinities Approach," *Nevada Law Journal* 14: 923-952.

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.

November 15: The Gendered Politics of Border Security

Sealing Cheng and Eunjung Kim (2014) "The Paradoxes of Neoliberalism: Migrant Korean Sex Workers in the United States and 'Sex Trafficking,'" *Social Politics: International studies in Gender, State and Society* 21(3): 355-381.

Jill M. Williams (2016) "The Safety/Security Nexus and the Humanitarianisation of Border Enforcement," *The Geographical Journal* 182(1): 27-37.

Catarina Kinnvall (2015) "Borders and Fear: Insecurity, Gender and the Far Right in Europe," *Journal of Contemporary European Studies* 23(4): 514-529.

November 22: Gender and the Privatization of Security

Saskia Stachowitsch (2015) "Military Privatization as a Gendered Process: A Case for Integrating Feminist International Relations and Feminist State Theories," in Maya Eichler, ed. *Gender and Private Security in Global Politics*, pp. 19-36.

Paul Higate (2012) "Drinking Vodka from the 'Butt-Crack': Men, Masculinities and Fratriarchy in the Private Militarized Security Company," *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 14(4): 450-469.

November 29: "Humanitarian" War and Imperial Feminism

Elizabeth Mesok (2015) "Affective Technologies of War: US Female Counterinsurgents and the Performance of Gendered Labor," *Radical History Review* 123: 60-86.

Synne Laastad Dyvik (2014) "Women as 'Practitioners' and 'Targets'," *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 16(3): 41-429.

Keally McBride and Annick T.R. Wibben (2012) "The Gendering of Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan," *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development* 3(2): 199-215.

December 6: Women, Gender, and Counterterrorism

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (2016) "The 'War on Terror' and Extremism: Assessing the Relevance of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda," *International Affairs* 92(2): 275-291.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (2013) "Situating Women in Counterterrorism Discourses: Undulating Masculinities and Liminal Femininities," *Boston University Law Review* 93: 1085-1122.

Lama Fakih (2013) "Soft Measures, Real Harm: Somalia and the US "War on Terror," in Margaret L. Satterthwaite and Jayne C. Huckerby, eds. *Gender, National Security, and Counter-Terrorism: Human Rights Perspectives*, pp. 183-207.

December 13: Women "Terrorists" and Returnees from "Violent Extremism"

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini and Melinda Holmes (2019) *Invisible Women: Gendered Dimensions of Return, Rehabilitation and Reintegration from Violent Extremism*. International Civil Society Action Network, pp. 1-42.

Margaret Gonzalez-Perez (2013) "Equal Opportunity Terrorism: Women Terrorists in Comparative Perspective," in Margaret L. Satterthwaite and Jayne C. Huckerby, eds. *Gender, National Security, and Counter-Terrorism: Human Rights Perspectives*, pp. 251-267.

Laura Sjoberg and Caron E. Gentry (2016) "It's Complicated: Looking Closely at Women in Violent Extremism," *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs* 17(2): 23-30.

December 20: No Class. Use this time to edit and revise your paper!

Final Papers Due by December 30, 2019 via email. No late papers will be accepted.

*** The Professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any point during the semester.**