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Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Geschlechterforschung SGGF

Feminist Approaches to Political Violence

hybrid roundtable

Swiss Association for Gender Studies

Friday, October 25th, 2024, 18:00–20:00 CET

at the University of Neuchâtel and online

with

**Maria Adriana Deiana, Umut Yıldırım,
Julia Palmiano Federer and Paniz Musawi Natanzi**

organized by

**Isabel Käser and Elizabeth Mesok
on behalf of the SAGS research network
“Gender & Political Science”**

Feminist Approaches to Political Violence

Feminist theoretical and methodological approaches are pertinent to the study of violent conflict and war, perhaps now more than ever. Such approaches engage in and transcend disciplinary bounds, working to make sense of the role of, for example, gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, and religion in the discourse and practice of war and violent conflict. Scholars from anthropology, political science, gender and sexuality studies, history, and sociology are insisting on the importance of transnational, decolonial, and intersectional approaches to some of the most critical and pressing matters of our time: genocide, mass displacement, famine, political violence and violence deemed terrorism and violent extremism. This roundtable brings together scholars and activists who employ feminist methods and theories to make sense of political violence—including state and non-state enacted—and the structures that enable it. We ask, at a moment where the world is witnessing one of the most egregious and unfathomable displays of state-led violence in modern history, what tools do our feminisms hold to for stronger alliance building? How do we resist the populist move against our solidarity networks, organizing, and universities?

Registration

This event is free and can be attended either on site at the University of Neuchâtel or online via Webex.

On site attendance

Avenue du Premier-Mars 26
Room D63
Please register via info@genregeschlecht.ch by October 20.

Online attendance

please use the link below (either by clicking [here](#) or opening the QR code)
We recommend installing Webex on your device beforehand.



Speakers

Paniz Musawi Natanzi is a political theorist. In the academic year 2024–2025, Paniz is a Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Paniz was a Postdoctoral Associate at the Duke University Middle East Studies Center (DUMESC) in 2023–2024 and during the 2022–2023 theme year programming in “Feminist Theory and Imperialism” in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies at Duke University. Currently, she is completing her book manuscript with the working title *The War Mode of Art Production: Masculinities, Labour, and Race in Afghanistan*. For her doctoral dissertation, she did research in urban Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. After her Ph.D. at SOAS, University of London, Paniz worked as a consultant in policy fields relating to gender, migration and labor, mental health, and prisons in Afghanistan.

Umut Yıldırım is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology specialising in Transnational Mobilities and Migration at the Graduate Institute of Geneva. Her work focuses on transnational development programs and aid policies, expert networks and mobilities, forced military migration and the environment, and political and ecological mobilisation with an ethnographic perspective from the Armenian/Kurdish region of Turkey.

Previously, she was affiliated with the Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, FU Berlin, and the Institute for Cultural Inquiry, ICI Berlin, and taught political anthropology at Bilgi, Bogaziçi, and Sabanci Universities in Istanbul, Turkey. Her research has been published in platforms including *Anthropological Theory* (2019), *Current Anthropology* (2021, 2024), *Jadaliyya* (2022), and *MERIP* (2024 fc.) The manuscript for her first monograph, *Low Intensities: War, Extraction, and Resistance in a Middle Eastern Capital*, is in progress. Her edited volume on war-torn ecologies, *An-Archic Fragments: Reflections from the Middle East*, was published by ICI Berlin Press in 2023. Through the fissures of mass violence across species, the volume identifies a conceptual intersection between war, affect, and ecology from the Middle East.

Maria-Adriana Deiana is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations and the co-director of Centre for Gender in Politics at Queen's University Belfast. Her research interests sit at the intersection of feminist international relations, critical peace and conflict studies, and border studies. She has published on the everyday, affect and aesthetics in conflict; on the politics of gender and feminist

activism in contexts shaped by armed conflict, international intervention and peacebuilding, and on EU border politics and security. She is the co-editor of the *Journal of War and Culture Studies* and the co-PI for the Talk4Peace research project. She is currently developing two new research trajectories, delving on the entanglements between dance and club cultures, militarism and armed conflict and exploring the contested afterlives of military/nuclear bases from a decolonial feminist perspective.

Julia Palmiano Federer is a Senior Researcher at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zürich, and a Senior Fellow at the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Collaboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership. Before joining the CSS, she was the Head of Research at the Ottawa Dialogue at the University of Ottawa, an organization focused on the research and practice of Track Two peacemaking. Her research interests center around innovative, critical, and decolonial approaches to peace mediation and conflict resolution, including the role of norms in peace mediation, the role of nongovernmental organizations producing knowledge and expertise on peacemaking, the impact of Track Two (unofficial dialogues) on questions of inclusion and effectiveness, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous ethical knowl-

edge exchange on mediation and peacemaking. In 2022, she was a Laureate of the 2022 Women, Peace and Security Research Awards for her work on women, peace, security, and climate change. Her work can be found in journals in conflict resolution and mediation, such as *International Journal*, *Negotiation Journal*, *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, and *Politics and Governance*. She is the author of the book, *NGOs Mediating Peace: Promoting Inclusion in Myanmar's Ceasefire Negotiations*, published with Palgrave Macmillan.

In conversation with

Isabel Käser is a Senior Researcher and SNSF Ambizione Fellow at the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern. Her research focuses on gendered and embodied processes of militancy, (de)militarisation, feminist mobilisations, migration, art, and activism - with a focus on the Middle East, particularly different parts of Kurdistan and its diasporas. From 2021–2023, she was a Researcher and Visiting Fellow at the LSE Middle East Centre where she led the project *The Kurdistan Region of Iraq Post-ISIS: Youth, Art and Gender*. Isabel gained her PhD at the Centre for Gender Studies at SOAS, University of London, and is the author of the award-winning book *The Kurdish Women's Freedom*

Movement: Gender, Body Politics and Militant Femininities (Cambridge University Press, 2021). Other publications include *Art and Activism in Iraqi Kurdistan: Feminist Fault Lines, Body Politics and the Struggle for Space* (LSE Middle East Centre Paper Series, 2023, co-authored with Houzan Mahmoud), and *Beyond Feminism? Jineoloji and the Kurdish Women's Freedom Movement* (Politics & Gender, 2022, co-authored with Nadjé Al-Ali).

Elizabeth Mesok (she/her) holds a Swiss National Science Foundation PRIMA Grant at the Center for Gender Studies at the University of Basel, where she leads the Gender, War, and Security research group. A feminist theorist of war, security and peace, Elizabeth holds a Ph.D. in American Studies and an M.A. in Politics from New York University. From 2013–2015 she was a postdoctoral fellow in Global American Studies at Harvard University and held a Visiting Assistant Professorship in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University from 2015–2016.

Her publications can be found in the journals *Feminist Studies*, *Radical History Review*, *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, and *Critical Studies on Terrorism* and in the edited volumes *Sexual Violence Against Men in Global Politics and Managing Sex in the U.S. Military*. Since relocating to Switzerland, she has taught courses at the University of Basel, the Graduate Institute for International Relations and Development, and been invited to speak to policy makers, military personnel, and foreign diplomats across Europe on topics related to gender, peace, and security.



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