Call for Papers

“Feminist Perspectives on Security”
at the Congress of the
German Political Science Association (DVPW)
21. - 25. September 2015, University Duisburg-Essen

Feminist scholarship has demonstrated the critical role of gender relations for our understanding and analysis of (Global) Security. The findings of this research show the relevance of gender relations and gendered operations of power for the traditional core dimensions of security, namely national security, peace, military intervention whilst pointing to its broader political ramifications on liberty, democracy, justice and human rights.

The euphoria surrounding the end of the Cold War was as fleeting as it was virulent. Since the 1990s, after the Gulf War and the increase in intrastate conflicts, questions of security have once again taken centre stage in scholarly and policy debates. The remilitarization of security policy in the wake of the so-called War on Terror brought about controversial measures undertaken in domestic and foreign policies. These infringements in international and domestic law were justified as securing democracy and freedom. In the same period, it became very clear that different forms of (sexualized) violence shape armed conflicts and that their ‘aftermath’ is characterized by extreme insecurity. Specifically in Germany, the fundamental reconfigurations of national security-making have posed serious challenges to scholarly inquiry. With the inclusion of women in the German armed forces and the abolition of conscription national security questions have diffused into broader society. Moreover, whilst widespread discourses typically cast women as more peaceable than men and concomitantly construct them as victims (alongside children) in need of rescue, past conflicts have unequivocally shown that they are implicated in war in a wide range of roles that challenge existing gender relations. These complexities give rise to a set of questions, including: What kind of subjectivities do women inhabit in military institutions and how does gender inform military interventions? Can international resolutions on Women, Peace and Security contribute to any normative change? Such questions suggest that the study of security requires a more comprehensive understanding of security that implies a transformation of unjust social relations.

Recent contributions on peace and security therefore emphasize the necessity of adopting an intersectional perspective. Simultaneously, the question arises whether intersectional analyses ought to treat gender a priori as the main analytic lens of feminist scholarship. The Politics and Gender Working Group thus calls for papers to discuss questions of Security, Legitimacy and Freedom at the German Political Science Association’s upcoming congress from gendered and feminist perspectives. Two themes will accompany our discussions: The first considers the “intersectional turn” as the conceptualization of
the complexly entwined nature of different forms of power and oppression; whereas the second focuses on feminist methods and ethics in the study of security.

This year the programme includes a forum on *(In)Securities in Gender Studies* to offer a supportive environment for the work of early career researchers in particular. Overall, we invite submissions that take-up the conference theme on *Security, Legitimacy and Freedom* from gendered and feminist perspectives. These may comprise theoretical, empirical and/or method-related contributions. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- The political economy of security
- The state’s monopoly on the use force and its (re)privatization
- Gender relations in “The War on Terror”
- The (dis)continuities of violence in times of peace and conflict
- Gender norms and women’s rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts
- Women’s rights and LGBT rights caught between human rights, pinkwashing and necropolitics
- Masculinities and gender relations in conflict and peace
- Ecology, security and gender
- Gender and social security
- Resistance against war, (settler) colonialism and occupation
- Migration and in/security at/through borders
- Security-development nexus
- Security concepts and their gender dimensions
- Feminist methods and ethics in the study of security

To be considered for inclusion in the programme, abstracts (approx. 350 words) and a brief biographical note (approx. 50 words) should be sent to the Working Group’s co-convenors email akpg@web.de by 22nd March 2015. Submissions in English language welcome. Working languages at the conference will be German and English.

Further information on the German Political Science Association’s Politics and Gender Working Group be found on our website [www.politik-und-geschlecht.de](http://www.politik-und-geschlecht.de).