

# PO3A7-30 Gender, Race and Militarism

**25/26**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Julia Welland

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

20 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

---

## Description

### Introductory description

This module explores the complex relationship between gender, race and militarism in global politics. Beginning with a critical engagement with the module's three central concepts – gender, race and militarism – the module will ask students to question what is assumed to be 'known' or 'commonsensical' about these practices and examine their constitutive nature. Throughout the module, gender and race will be positioned as a topic of study and as an analytical lens. Gendered and racialised representations will be shown to be central to practices of militarism and the waging of war in global politics, while militarism (and war) will be shown to produce a range of gendered and racialised subjectivities, effects and affects. The relationship between gender, race and militarism will be further complicated through an analysis of other multiple intersecting axes of identity and oppression – sexuality and disability in particular – as well as their workings in global politics.

The module will be global in focus, exploring practices of gender, race and militarism across the world; empirically diverse, moving from (among others) the battlefield to the military household to peace movements to popular culture; and investigate figures as diverse as soldiers, anti-war protestors, cyborgs, drones, and service women beauty queens. Some of the questions students will be asked to grapple with include: What is the relationship between gender, race and militarism? Who does militarism? Who does war? Where are war and militarism taking place? How are war and militarism gendered and racialised? What possibilities are there for resisting gender, race and militarism?

The module will ask students to think critically about their own experiences of gender, race and militarism, as well as the ways in which their thinking about these concepts offers possibilities and limits for thinking about global politics. Designed with the intention of students taking an active role in the direction and shaping of discussion, the module will run as a weekly interactive lecture and one-hour seminar, making use of flipped classrooms and a learning portfolio.

## **Module aims**

The purpose of this module is to examine how practices of gender and race are central to logics of violence in global politics. Students will be encouraged to think of gender and race as relations of power that are integral to conceptualisations and understandings of global politics, both making possible and limiting certain ways of being and doing in the world. The module will push students to think critically about what is and is not considered 'global politics' and disturb some of the often-assumed categories central to the discipline of International Relations (war/peace; masculinity/femininity; military/civilian; public/private).

## **Outline syllabus**

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The module will be divided into four broad parts. The module begins by providing students with a conceptual framework to work with, with a week devoted to gender and race (and their intersection), and a week devoted to militarism and its associated concepts, war and militarisation. The second section of the module directly examines the relationship between the three core concepts, asking where the men and women are in these sites, how gender and militarism are racialised, and what is queer about war and militarism. The third part of the module explores experiences of gender, race and militarism, taking a number of contemporary 'sites' of war and militarism (for example, sexual violence, military technology and popular culture) and interrogating both how gender and race make such sites possible, and the gendered and racialised subjectivities and effects produced in and through them. The final part of the module turns its attention to gender, race and militarism 'at home', examining the ways in which global practices of violence are rooted in the everyday and disrupting distinctions between 'war' and 'peace', 'military' and 'civilian'. This final part will explore sites such as the military household, peace movements, and everyday practices of militarism such as remembrance events.

Week-by-week breakdown of topics:

1. Welcome and introduction to the module

Conceptual framework:

2. What is gender? What is race?
3. War, militarism or martial politics?

What is the relationship between gender, race and militarism?

4. War, women and femininity
5. War, men and masculinity
6. READING WEEK

7. Gender, race, violence
8. Scaffolding learning and skills seminar and lecture for the critical reflection assessments
9. Queer(ing) war and militarism

Experiences of gender, race and militarism:

10. Violent bodies, violated bodies
11. Crippin' the military?
12. Bodies of technology
13. Feeling militarism
14. Recruiting for and selling war

Gender, race and militarism at home:

15. Military households
16. READING WEEK
17. Militarism and the everyday
18. Military afterlives
19. Resisting war and militarism

1. Feminist futures: Thinking beyond gender, race and militarism

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the complex interrelationship between gender, race and militarism
- Demonstrate theoretical understanding of feminist approaches to war and militarism
- Evaluate different interpretations of the complex relationship between the three core concepts
- Construct their own conceptualisations of, and relationship between, gender, race and militarism
- Outline and discuss the significance of gender and feminist approaches to understandings of global politics
- Fluency in written communication and argumentation
- Gather, organise and deploy analytical evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources
- Critical appraisal of concepts and information
- Use information and communication technology for the retrieval and presentation of information

## Indicative reading list

Ackerly, Brooke A., Maria Stern and Jacqui True (eds) (2006), *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Ahmed, Sara (2016), 'A phenomenology of whiteness', *Feminist Theory*, Vol 8, Issue 2

Ahmed, Sara (2017), *Living a Feminist Life*, London: Duke University Press

Cohn, Carol (ed) (2013), *Women and Wars*, London: Polity Press

Enloe, Cynthia (2014), *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International*

Politics, 2nd edition, London: University of California Press

Enloe, Cynthia (2000), *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarising Women's Lives*, Berkeley and London: University of California Press

Eriksson Baaz, Maria, and Maria Stern (2013), *Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War? Perceptions, Prescriptions, Problems in the Congo and Beyond*, London and New York: Zed Books

Halberstam, Jack (2011), *The Queer Art of Failure*, London: Duke University Press. 2

Hartman, Saidiya (2021), *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*, Serpent's Tail

hooks, bell (1981), *Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism*, Boston: South End.

hooks, bell (2000), *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Centre*, London: Pluto

Kronswell, Annica and Erica Svedberg (eds.) (2013), *Making Gender, Making War: Violence, Military and Peacekeeping Practices*, Abingdon: Routledge

Lorde, Audre (1984), *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, Trumansburg, NY: Crossing Press.

McSorley, Kevin (ed) (2013), *War and the Body: Militarisation, practice and experience*, Abingdon: Routledge

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade (2003), *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, London: Duke University Press.

Parpart, Jane L., and Marysia Zalewski (eds.) (2008), *Rethinking the Man Question: Sex, Gender and Violence in International Relations*, London: Zed Books

Parashar, Swati (2014), *Women and Militant Wars: The Politics of Injury*, Abingdon and New York: Routledge

Sharoni, Simona, Julia Welland, Linda Steiner and Jennifer Pedersen (eds) (2016), *Handbook on Gender and War*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

Sharpe, Christina (2016), *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*, Duke University Press

Shepherd, Laura J. (ed) (2015), *Gender Matters in Global Politics: A Feminist Introduction to International Relations*, Second Edition, Abingdon and New York: Routledge

Sjoberg, Laura (ed) (2010), *Gender and International Security: Feminist Perspectives*, Abingdon and New York: Routledge

Sjoberg, Laura (2014), *Gender, War and Conflict*, London: Polity Press

Sjoberg, Laura and Sandra Via (eds.) (2010), *Gender, War and Militarism: Feminist Perspectives*, Praeger

Steans, Jill and Daniela Tepe-Belfrage (eds) (2016), *Handbook of Gender in World Politics*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

Sylvester, Christine (2013), *War as Experience: Contributions from International Relations and Feminist Analysis*, Abingdon and New York: Routledge

Woodward, Rachel and Claire Duncanson (eds.) (2017), *The Palgrave International Handbook on Gender and the Military*, Palgrave MacMillian

Yuval-Davis, Nira (1997), *Gender and Nation*, London: Sage

## Research element

The module will include an assessed research essay, which will give students the opportunity to design and carry out a small research project. Students will be responsible for devising their own essay title (developed with, and approved by, the module leader); compiling a reading list; and drafting an essay plan, which will be peer-reviewed during seminar group work.

## **Interdisciplinary**

As a feminist module, Gender, Race and Militarism will have interdisciplinarity at its core. Although the majority of texts will be taken from what can be broadly termed 'International Relations', feminist work from anthropology, cultural studies and sociology will feature. Students will be used to draw on theoretical and methodological traditions from a range of disciplines in their assessed work, as well as developing their knowledge of them in classroom discussions.

## **International**

Gender, Race and Militarism will be an empirically rich module, with debates and discussions informed by global events. Particular attention will be given to scholars, writers and literature from the global south and/or other marginalised communities. This will be reflected both in the module's reading lists and weekly content.

## **Subject specific skills**

- Understand the significance of feminist approaches to global politics
- Apply concepts, theories and methods to analysing political ideas, institutions and practices
- Evaluate different interpretations of political issues and debates
- Gather, organise and deploy analytical evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources
- Construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical reflection
- Critically analyse and disseminate information
- Understand the importance of referencing and ethical requirements of study, including critical and reflective use of information and communications technology

## **Transferable skills**

- Strong written and oral communication skills
  - The ability to understand complex ideas and apply these to practical situations
  - The ability to use evidence and logic to construct a good argument
  - The ability to plan, organise and carry out a complex research project
  - The ability to reflect on their learning and make use of constructive feedback
  - Teamwork and collaboration
- 

## **Study**

## **Study time**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	264 hours (88%)
Total	300 hours

## Private study description

This will be formed by weekly reading for seminars and completion of the weekly 'homework' tasks that will form the basis of the seminars. It will also consist of completion of the three pieces of assessed work.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

---

## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A2

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
Student's will devise their own research essay titles	35%		Yes (extension)
The long research essay provides an opportunity for students to take up key issues in gender, race and militarism and more deeply pursue a topic either covered in the course or closely related.			
'Knowing' war and/or militarism through film/literature/art/museums/music	30%		Yes (extension)
A reflective essay on a particular film/piece of fiction/artwork/museum exhibit/other form of aesthetic representation that has made you notice the relationship between gender, race and militarism. The chosen aesthetic representation does not have deal with gender/race/militarism directly. Indeed, students will be encouraged to think expansively about these concepts and where/how they may appear in unfamiliar or less obvious places.			
Applying feminist curiosity to military recruitment campaigns	35%		Yes (extension)
Drawing on the conceptual insights of the module, students will pick and critically review a military recruitment campaign through a feminist framework. A campaign can be chosen from anywhere in the world, although students' choice will be limited by campaigns in a language they are			

**Weighting****Study time****Eligible for self-certification**

proficient in. This assessment is asking students to apply the feminist knowledge they have acquired throughout the module to ask critical questions about how gender, race and sexuality are integral to military recruitment campaigns, as well as what the effects of this are.

**Feedback on assessment**

For all three assessment components students will receive written feedback, using the standard PAIS essay feedback form. Students will also benefit from more informal and peer feedback through the scaffolding learning and skills seminar scheduled for week 9 of term 1, which will be focused around what is expected from students in their critical reviews.

---

**Availability****Courses**

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of RPOA-M1P7 Postgraduate Masters by Research in Politics and International Studies
- RPOA-M1P4 Postgraduate Research Politics
  - Year 3 of M1P4 Politics (Research)
  - Year 3 of M1P4 Politics (Research)
- UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
  - Year 3 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies
  - Year 3 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
  - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German

- Year 3 of UIPA-L2L8 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law