

Feminist Knowledge Production as Resistance in Times of Remilitarisation

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As processes of remilitarisation intensify worldwide, manifesting in increased military spending and securitisation and the normalisation of war-readiness discourses, feminist knowledge production emerges as a crucial form of resistance. This workshop explores how feminist scholars, activists, artists, and practitioners challenge, subvert and transform militarised worldviews and forms of knowledge, by foregrounding feminist epistemology as a political and methodological intervention in the face of militarism.

Conventional frameworks in security studies, international relations and even peace and conflict studies tend to reinforce hierarchical, colonial, gendered, and nationalist logics shaping not only military policies, but also the production of “legitimate” knowledge about peace, violence, and war. Many feminist scholars have been at the forefront of resistance against these trends, using various strategies, such as foregrounding everyday experiences of violence, embodiment, emotions, and relationality as epistemological tools. They promote an understanding of militarisation extending beyond the military to permeate all aspects of everyday life. They challenge the co-optation of feminist language and aims for militarist purposes, such as using feminist arguments to legitimise military intervention. Furthermore, and perhaps most critically, they link structural and everyday violence and alerted to the need to deal with the root causes of violence to imagine just peace.

The workshop’s core tenet is that feminist knowledge production can provide avenues for resistance to militarism and militarisation by offering alternative narratives, research designs, and practices with the potential to disrupt the normalisation of militarism. Thus, critical feminist interventions can help rethink how we conceptualise war, peace, and security, through approaches foregrounding anti-colonial, anti-racist and anti-militarist understandings of security, care, partnership, and interdependence.

Participants are invited to take inspiration from recent debates on knowledge production in international politics, in particular by critically thinking through how feminists produce knowledge and how this can be seen as a form of resistance. Critical research methodologies, including feminist, ask us to reflect on whose knowledge, and how we are foregrounding knowledge when we do research together. Further, we invite scholars to rethink the different ways feminists relate to resistance and what forms it should take at a time of increasing remilitarisation. How does feminist praxis in research, activism, and the arts help sustain a critical dialogue and challenge conventional views on militarism?

Potential paper topics include:

- Feminist knowledge production in contexts of militarisation
- Resistance as a feminist strategy to challenge the manifold extant violences we find ourselves in
- Critical participatory action research and similar feminist participatory methodologies as methods of co-strugglership against remilitarisation
- Solidarity, resistance, activism and knowledge production
- Art-based methods as generative vehicles to centre resistant knowledge against militarisation and expose the consequences of militarism and militarisation
- Feminist antimilitarism and the tension between pacifism and armed resistance
- The ethics of feminist anti-militarism and the justification of violence in feminist struggles
- The everyday processes of militarisation as gendered and racialised
- The cooptation of feminist language by militarist agendas