

Intensive course: Gender, Peace and Conflict Studies

TAMPEREEN KORKEAKOULUSAATIO SR Finland

Activity Description (including profile of participants per organisation, goals and results of the activity)

This one-week intensive course will explore the various intersections between gender and conflict: how masculinities and femininities are constructed in times of conflict and war, the impact of these constructions within the conflict/post-conflict context, and how gender and ethnicity are used in narratives and political discourses. We will discuss the relationships between gender, militarism and war, between gender and power, and more generally between gender and social structures. This course also aims at understanding the differing impact of conflict on women and on men and the diverging meanings of conflict and security for women and men.

Instead of reproducing current approaches to gender and conflicts, which usually confuse gender and women, the course builds on the idea that both femininities and masculinities matter for understanding conflicts. So, instead of proposing modules focusing mostly or exclusively on women, the course will explore thought-provoking issues such as the importance of militarised masculinities for female combatants, or wartime sexual violence against men. This topical innovativeness will be reflected in teaching methods, designed to favour critical thinking and independent thought, and building on visual and interactive material.

The “Gender, Peace and Conflict Studies” one-week intensive course aims to:

- Explain and use key concepts in the theory and practice of gender and conflicts;
- Critically assess theories related to gender in peace and conflicts, and their interpretations in respect to the various stages of the conflict cycle;
- Understand how masculinity and femininity work in times of conflict and war to create soldiers, combatants and support among the civilian population;
- Draw on a variety of sources of information on international conflicts and gender issues, including online resources;
- Assess the impact of international policies and initiatives aiming at “mainstreaming gender” in peacekeeping and peace-building;
- Identify the relationship between gender and power, and more generally between gender and the social structure.

Assessment of the seminar presentations and written assignments will be given throughout the week. Students are asked to give a seminar presentation in which they address one question related to the seminar topic. Presentations last for approx. 15 minutes and students are encouraged to speak from notes rather than reading a written text. Presenters are also required to submit a one-page

outline of their presentation to the class. At the end of the week students are also asked to make a group presentation on a case study, which will provide them with an opportunity to focus on issues discussed during the week.

Main teaching methods and activities:

- Lectures: learning outcomes will be achieved through the oral and visual presentation of lecture material that will introduce the main issues, as well as the key theoretical approaches to these explored in the literature. Information on resources will also be provided through the lectures.
- Seminars: Learning outcomes will be achieved through student participation in informal group work and through presentations based on independent research, analysis and presentation skills, as well as through the seminar discussions in which students develop their understanding through interaction, cooperation and confrontation with their peers.

The Tampere Peace Research Institute at Tampere University will be responsible for the implementation of the course, with input from the Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre, the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) at UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, CIS and Hogen..

Tentative day to day work programme:

Day 1

Introduction to the programme

Module 1. The Concept of Gender and Gender Roles during Conflicts

Module 2. The Nexus between Gender, Ethnicity and Power

Day 2

Module 3. Gender, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Escalation

Module 4. Active and Combatant Women

Module 5. Gender-Based Violence during Conflicts

Day 3

Module 6. Gender, Forced Migration and Displacement

Module 7. Gender and Peacekeeping

Module 8. Gender and Peace Negotiations

Day 4

Module 9. Gender in SSR and DDR programmes

Module 10. Gender, Transitional Justice and Reconstruction

Day 5

Case study presentations

Conclusions

Participants are graduate and PhD students from all the partners in the consortium - six promising students from each partner. The students selected for the programme should have exceptional qualifications but they can come from a variety of different disciplines, including peace and conflict studies, political science, anthropology, gender studies, law and human rights.

This intensive programme will be the second of three, further contributing to the creation of the modules for the MOOC.