

Workshop report

Gender Perspectives and International Security

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In the workshop, various dimensions and problems related to international security were discussed and analysed. It was recognised that there exists a need to broaden our knowledge; redefine and expand the concept of international security; and to include in the analysis the experiences of women and the notion of gender. Ten papers were presented and ventilated in the workshop with Dr. Regina Karp as a facilitator. The papers contained great variations, both theoretically and empirically, on problems related to security and gender.

Dr. Mark Elam elaborated in his paper (*see further*, his article in this issue of *Statsvetenskaplig Tidskrift*) how we are to 're-write' international security and where feminists may place themselves as "outsiders", "mavericks" or as "nomads."

Other papers explored how war affects women in general and their participation in particular. Two papers highlighted women's participation both in the military and in conflict management. Ph. D. Candidate Dovile Budryte, presented a study of women soldiers in Lithuanian and Polish Armies during a period where these countries are undergoing a transitional period toward democracy. Dr. Leokadia Drobizheva centered her study to the management of ethnic conflicts and how women participate at various levels of conflict, for example, in an organisation such as, "Women for Global Security" (WINGS). In this organisation, women convene peace-making conferences and make their opinions and expertise visible in the media. Dr. Biljana Kasic and MA Marina Liborakina raised the question of the challenges war poses to human rights and particularly women's rights. Liborakina highlighted the national debate about the war in Chechnya which, in her opinion, is more concerned with 'power grabs' and corruption than with the need to protect democracy and constitutional order. The gender dimension of the war, for instance, is illustrated in the drastic decline in the status of women in Chechnya. Kasic reflected in her paper, how the war in former Yugoslavia has shaped women's lives and how new feminist knowledge is being constructed from their own experiences, but also from the policies of the new states on the Balkan.

Another area examined was how we are to conceptualise security. Ph. D. Candidate Maria Stern-Pettersson analysed the political identity of Mayan-Women in Guatemala and how they view security and insecurity (*see further*, her article in this issue of *Statsvetenskaplig Tidskrift*). In a similar vein, Ph. D. Candidates Lara Stancich and Lesley McCulloch discussed women and their own security agenda in an inductive case study on Philippine women. Ph. D.

Candidate Johanna Hakala emphasised the societal dimension of security in a multicultural context. Societal security raises questions about identities, in which women act as boundary markers. Hakala related her theoretical discussion to Muslim women in Europe and particularly to the debate in France on Muslim women wearing headscarves and veil. Undergraduate student Sara Smith focused in her paper on the relevance of the environment that leads to a decline in the status of indigenous women. Smith analysed the Saami women in Northern Sweden and how environmental degradation and current policies affect and threaten their culture and status as native women. Likewise, Ann Therese Lotherington stressed how women are affected by regional policies by highlighting specifically, the reasons and outcomes of Norway's regional policy to support women in rural areas during the last decade.

Conference papers presented in the workshop:

- Dovile Budryte, USA *Why do Women Join the Military? The Study of Women Soldiers in Lithuanian and Polish Armies.*
- Leokadia Drobizheva, Russia *Management of Ethnic Conflicts.*
- Mark Elam, Denmark *Feminist Perspectives on Security: The Work of Outsiders, Mavericks or Nomads?*
- Johanna Hakala, Finland *"Societal Security", Multiculturalism, and Muslim Women in Europe.*
- Biljana Kasic, Croatia *Feminism – New Challenge at War Time.*
- Marina Liborakina, Russia *Women and the War in Chechnya.*
- Ann Therese Lotherington, Norway *The Disappearing Reason: Norwegian Women-Oriented Regional Policy at a Crossroads.*
- Sara Smith, Sweden *Gender Perspectives in Environmental Security: The Case of Saami Women in Northern Sweden.*
- Lara Stancich & Lesley McCulloch, United Kingdom *The Silenced War: Women and (In) Security – the Case of South-East Asia.*
- Maria Stern-Pettersson, Sweden *Contextualizing In/Security: The Political Identity 'Māyāñ-Women' in Guatemala.*