

## **GENDER AND VIOLENCE**

Semester 1, 20 credits

*Please note that this outline is indicative as of Summer 2023 and is subject to change.*

### **Convenor**

TBC.

### **Who should take this module?**

This is a core module for the MA Women, Violence and Conflict and an option module for students taking other MA Women's and Gender Studies programmes. Research students wishing to take this module should discuss this with their supervisor before week one.

### **Description and Aims**

This interdisciplinary module explores different theoretical and conceptual approaches to violence from an explicitly feminist perspective, drawing and building on foundational second-wave feminist analyses of the subject of violence against women. It is particularly concerned with the intersections between violence and gender, where gender is understood as it intersects with categories such as race, ethnicity, dis/ability, age, sexuality, class. Interrogating key theorists on violence, and, in particular, critiquing these from a feminist and gendered perspective as their ideas are applied to contemporary and historical examples of violence, the module will ask the following questions: How does violence differentially affect gendered bodies and gendered lives?; What are the gendered lacunae in established approaches to violence?; What are the connections between different forms or modalities of violence – structural, symbolic, normative, linguistic, aesthetic and direct – and what role does gender play here?; What are the limits of the term 'violence'?; How might real-world examples of violence challenge these theoretical and conceptual frameworks?; Finally, what is the nature of feminist investments in the subject of violence and can violence ever be a 'feminist practice' (Melzer, 2015)?

### **Learning Outcomes**

After successfully completing this module, students should:

- Be able to demonstrate a critical, nuanced understanding of key theoretical approaches to violence from a feminist perspective
- Be attuned to the intersections between violence and gender with a particular appreciation of how violence differentially affects gendered bodies and gendered lives
- Be able to successfully apply theoretical and conceptual approaches to violence and gender to real-world examples, testing the limits of these approaches
- Have enhanced their skills at oral presentation and essay writing

### **Indicative Programme**

Week 1	Introduction: Approaching Gender and Violence
Week 2	Violence is a Feminist Issue
Week 3	Violence as Feminist Practice?
Week 4	Men, Masculinities and Violence
Week 5	Feminist Abolitionism
Week 6	Workshop on Coursework Assessment
Week 7	Other Modalities of Violence
Week 8	Violent Texts; Violent Aesthetics: Representation, Gender and Violence
Week 9	Students' Choice of Topic
Week 10	Coursework Workshop
Week 11	Coursework Workshop

### **Assessment**

One essay of 3500–4000 words.

### **Indicative Reading**

- Alexander, Karen, and Mary E. Hawkesworth, eds. (2008) *War & Terror: Feminist Perspectives*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Brownmiller, Susan (1975) *Against our Will: Men, Women and Rape*. London: Secker and Warburg.
- Butler, Judith (2009) *Frames of War: When is Life Grievable*. London; New York: Verso.
- Crenshaw, Kimberle (1991) Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review* 43, 6: 1241-1299.
- Fregoso, Rosa-Linda, and Cynthia Bejarano, eds. (2010) *Feminicide in the Américas*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Hearn, Jeff (1998) *The Violences of Men. How Men Talk About and How Agencies Respond to Men's Violence to Women*. London: Sage.

- hooks, bell (2015) Feminist Movement to end Violence, in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Routledge: pp. 117-132.
- Nixon, Rob (2011) *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, MA; London: Harvard University Press.
- Richie, Beth E. (2012) *Arrested Justice. Black Women, Violence, and America's Prison Nation*. New York and London: New York University Press.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Philippe Bourgois, eds. (2004) *Violence in War and Peace*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Sjoberg, Laura, and Caron E. Gentry, eds. (2011) *Women, Gender and Terrorism*. Athens; London: University of Georgia Press.
- Zerán, Alia Trabucco (2022), *When Women Kill: Four Crimes Retold*. Trans. by Sophie Hughes. Sheffield; London; New York: And Other Stories.