

Eminent Lecturer Series, November 2009: Women and War

Professor Hilary Charlesworth and other eminent scholars will deliver a series of lectures on the theme of Women and War. This lecture series will consider women's complex relationship to war and conflict. It will investigate the images of womanhood that are used in decisions about the use of force as well as the effect of conflict on women

**Lecture 1:** November 4, 12.30-1.30  
Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre HB1

Professor Hilary Charlesworth  
ARC Federation Fellow  
Director Centre for International Governance and Justice, RegNet ANU

Eyeless in Gaza: Women in the Invasion of Gaza 2008-09

Israel's invasion of Gaza on 27 December 2008 was a significant incident in the apparently intractable Middle East conflict. This lecture will discuss the invasion using the perspectives of sex and gender. Such perspectives suggest the limits of current international debate about punishment, violence and self-defence.

**Lecture 2:** November 11, 12.30-1.30  
Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre HB1

Professor J Ann Tickner  
School of International Relations, University of Southern California

Gendering War and National Security

Theories and policy practices associated with war and international security have, for the most part, been a masculine domain. Women have stereotypically been associated with peace, and Women's Studies as an academic discipline has tended to stay away from these issues. This lecture will offer some explanations as to why this is the case and suggest some ways in which feminists in the discipline of International Relations have begun to bridge this divide and offer us some new ways to understand war and international security and their gendered practices.

**Lecture 3:** November 18, 12.30-1.30  
Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre HB1

Dr Bina D'Costa  
Research Fellow, Centre for International Governance and Justice, RegNet ANU

Veiling Gender Justice: Religion and Reconstruction

This lecture argues that gender justice becomes a politicized issue in counterproductive ways in conflict zones. While the control of women and the patriarchal family is central to extremist ideologies, women's vulnerability and insecurity increase in times of conflicts not only from the actions of the religious forces but also from 'progressive', 'secular' international 'humanitarian' interventions. This paper will discuss this with special focus on Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

**Lecture 4:** November 25, 12.30-1.30  
Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre HB1

Professor Penny Andrews

Head of School Law, LaTrobe University

Cultural Terrorism: The War Against Women in South Africa and the Law's Limitations

The alarming statistics of violence against women in South Africa today have resulted in many women advocates referring to the situation in the country as "a war against women" or "a state of terrorism". My paper will examine the context of the violence, its persistence, levels and forms, and its ubiquity, to evaluate how a society with comprehensive formal legal protections against violence, including a constitutional mandate to eliminate all forms of violence against women, evinces such widespread and seemingly inevitable violence. My enquiry focuses on the cultural and institutional patterns [both historical and contemporary] that generate the violence, and law's constraints in the face of such cultural and institutional factors. In addition, my paper will examine the failure of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to deal with the systemic violence against women under apartheid - and how that omission may have contributed to the continuing culture of violence against women in South Africa.

Please Note all lectures are free and open to the public

Reservations are not required

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Freilich Foundation

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