

CALL FOR PAPERS:

**Complexifying Gendered Victimhood During War and  
Transition: Gender, Vulnerabilities and Agency**

**Date: 27 February 2019**

**Location: Institute for Intercultural and International Studies (InIIS), University of Bremen, Bremen / Germany**

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The **Institute for Intercultural and International Studies (InIIS)** at the University of Bremen invites proposals for a one-day in-depth workshop on '**Complexifying Gendered Victimhood During War and Transition: Gender, Vulnerabilities and Agency**', to be held at the University of Bremen on 27 February 2019.

Although questions around gender have traditionally been silenced in peace and conflict studies, recent decades witnessed the increasing utilization of gender lenses and diverse feminist theories to elucidate the gendered dimensions of armed conflicts and post-conflict transitions. Predominantly guided by feminist curiosities to comprehend, unravel and uproot patriarchal structures and gendered inequalities within theatres of war, a diverse set of studies increasingly seeks to examine situations of conflict, violence, peace-building and transitions with attention to gender. Throughout much of the literature on violence and conflict, however, employing a 'gender perspective' is frequently perceived as exclusively highlighting the experiences, and especially the vulnerabilities, of women, with essentializing effects.

All too often this focus has (re-)produced an unreconstructed view of men as universal aggressors and women as universal victims during armed conflicts. But this representation of 'all men are in the militia, all the women are victims', as Cynthia Enloe has put it, is a gross over-simplification that obscures women's active roles and marginalizes masculine vulnerabilities during times of war. In response to this gap, different studies in recent years have begun to examine the numerous ways in which female survivors exercise agency, and have attended to the manifold gendered harms and vulnerabilities experienced by men and boys, with particular focus on sexual violence against men. Only rarely, however, are these different approaches to gendered victimhood brought into conversation. Despite these advances in the literature, our understanding of the full complexities of gendered victimhood therefore remains arguably limited.

To this end, in this workshop we aim to open up, broaden and complexify debates about the intersections between gender and victimhood during war and transitions. We thus seek to explore, in a holistic and nuanced manner, how women, men and gender-non-conforming persons experience conflict and are confronted with a range of gendered vulnerabilities, but at the same time also exercise various forms of (political) agency to come to terms with their experiences.

Questions to be explored in the workshop can include, but are not limited to:

- *What are the different ways in which conflict-affected communities experience gendered harms and vulnerabilities, both during war and in post-conflict transitions?*
- *How must the empirical and conceptual relationships between gender, victimhood vulnerabilities and/or agency be understood?*
- *What conceptualizations of gender and victimhood can yield a more productive debate about survivors' experiences of harms?*
- *How do survivors and war-affected communities exercise varying forms of agency to engage with their gendered conflict-related experiences?*

We invite paper proposals from early career researchers (PhDs and Post-Docs) across various disciplines. In-depth case study analyses alongside theoretical explorations and empirically-grounded papers are welcome. The workshop will be interactive and participatory; participants are expected to present a research paper on the theme of the workshop, but will also be assigned another paper for discussion, and are expected to actively contribute to the discussion throughout the workshop.

If you would like to propose a paper, please submit an abstract of max. 250 words and a short academic bio by **15 November 2018** to Dr. Caterina Bonora ([bonora@uni-bremen.de](mailto:bonora@uni-bremen.de)) and Dr. Philipp Schulz ([pschulz@uni-bremen.de](mailto:pschulz@uni-bremen.de)). There is no participation fee.