

Masculinities and Queer Perspectives in Transitional Justice

Critical Investigations Towards Inclusive Gender In Post-Conflict and Transitional Spaces

Editors:

Philipp Schulz, Institute for Intercultural and International Studies (InIIS), University of Bremen

Brandon Hamber, Transitional Justice Institute and INCORE, Ulster University

Heleen Touquet, University of Antwerp & University of Leuven

Call for Papers:

The praxis and study of transitional justice (TJ) – referring to a diverse set of measures designed to deal with and respond to the legacies of human rights violations in the aftermath of armed conflicts or authoritarian regimes – significantly expanded and globalized since the end of the Cold War. Although the (sub-)field was traditionally silent on gender, the past decade in particular witnessed the increasing utilization of gender lenses – and specifically feminist curiosities and theories – to elucidate the gendered workings of post-conflict transitions. Not at least since Bell and O’Rourke in 2007 have posed the critical question of ‘where are women, where is gender and where is feminism in transitional justice?’¹ considerations around gender and sexualities have increasingly gained traction in the growing literature. However, while gender perspectives have become a burgeoning focus of analysis in the field of transitional justice, the dominant conceptualization of ‘gender’ in scholarship and practice on dealing with the past effectively remains an exclusive one: as argued by feminist anthropologist Kimberly Theidon, ‘from gender hearings to gender units and gender-sensitive truth commissions, “adding gender” is policy-speak for “adding women”’.²

As a result of these dominant foci, careful consideration for the roles of masculinities and for the experiences of sexual and gender minorities remains mostly absent. While previous research has slowly begun to call for attention to masculinities³ or LGBTIQ rights⁴ in transitional justice scholarship, the few existing studies thus far exist primarily in silos, and are characterized by an often unitary focus on *either* masculinities *or* sexual and gender minorities.

By bringing different critical approaches to gender in TJ – including masculinities and queer perspectives – into conversation, this edited volume begins to remedy these gaps. We thereby seek to contribute towards a more inclusive and holistic understanding of gender in transitional spaces, which both challenges as well as contributes to current approaches and practices, thereby moving forward the field, study and implementation of post-conflict processes of dealing with the past. Incorporating a masculinities lens entails, amongst others, attention to the roles of militarized masculinities in post-conflict transitions, but also to the gender-specific vulnerabilities and harms experienced by men, and how these are (not) attended to by transitional justice processes across different contexts. A critical approach towards masculinities hereby also means careful examination of how post-conflict contexts can often be characterized by the yearning for a patriarchal golden age and forms of ‘masculinity nostalgia’,⁵ which in turn can imply unintended consequences for gender justice and equality more broadly. Queer perspectives incorporate attention to and awareness of the lived realities of people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, including LGBTIQ+ communities, and how these are omitted from the hetero-normative frames that operate within and alongside conventional transitional justice processes. In a broader sense, queer curiosities and

¹ Bell, Christine and Catherine O’Rourke. 2007. Does Feminism Need a Theory of Transitional Justice? An Introductory Essay. *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 1 (1): 23-44.

² Theidon, Kimberly. 2009. Reconstructing Masculinities: The disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants in Colombia. *Human Rights Quarterly* 31(1): 1-34.

³ Hamber, Brandon. 2016. There Is a Crack in Everything: Problematising Masculinities, Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice. *Human Rights Review* 17(1): 1-25.

⁴ Bueno-Hansen, Pasha. 2017. The Emerging LGBTI Rights Challenge to Transitional Justice in Latin America. *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 12 (1): 126-145.

⁵ MacKenzie, Megan and Alana Foster. 2017. Masculinity nostalgia: How war and occupation inspire a yearning for gender order. *Security Dialogue* 48(3): 206-223.

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insights also intend to investigate the multiple possibilities of the intersections between gender, sexualities, vulnerabilities and power, which often lie at the core of post-conflict processes of dealing with the past. Queer perspectives also aim to envision and to sharpen our imagination for possible alternatives to dominant – often institutionalized, (neo-)liberal and hetero-patriarchal – TJ toolkit approaches.

We therefore seek to critically explore and position these masculinities and queer perspectives within feminist inquiries regarding the roles of gender in social, cultural and political structuring more widely. Rather than only making men and sexual minorities visible in transitional settings, we instead seek to explore structural issues regarding the persisting exclusion and potential inclusion of masculinities and queer analyses. As per this approach, our intention for this edited volume is underpinned by and geared towards a relational understanding of gender. Topics to be explored and questions to be raised and answered include, but may not be limited to:

- How can masculinities and queer perspectives enhance and complexify our understandings of the intersections between gender, armed conflict and post-conflict transitions?
- What are the lived realities of men and of sexual and gender minorities in post-conflict and transitional spaces, and how can (or cannot) diverse transitional justice mechanisms engage with and respond to these experiences?
- How do identities defined by *inter alia* gender, sexualities, class and ethnicity intersect, and how do these intersections shape individuals' post-war experiences?
- What are potential challenges associated with bringing more attention towards men's gendered experiences in transitional settings?

We welcome chapter submissions which seek to address and uncover these and multiple associated questions in a variety of different post-conflict and transitional case study contexts, as well as from diverse disciplinary, theoretical and methodological backgrounds. In the edited volume, we thus aim to combine contributions that address diverse geo-political regions, from across different historical episodes and that touch upon different conflict dynamics, to illustrate the diversity of transitional and post-conflict contexts where masculinities and/or queer perspectives offer new insights into understanding, disrupting and/or complexifying these processes.

We intend to submit the edited volume to the *Series on Transitional Justice* published by *Intersentia*; we are in touch with the editors of the book series, who have indicated their interest and commitment in working with us on such an edited volume. We also intend to organize a one-day workshop for contributors to the edited volume, tentatively scheduled for March 2020, either in Antwerp, Belgium or alternatively in Bremen, Germany. At the workshop, authors will present and receive detailed feedback on their draft Chapters, before preparing the manuscripts for final submission to the editors/publisher. The workshop thereby aims to ensure internal coherence between the Chapters included in the book.

If you are interested in contributing a Chapter for this edited volume, please send a **brief abstract** (of 200-250 words), accompanied by a short bio (100 words) to **Philipp Schulz**, Institute for Intercultural and International Studies (InIIS), University of Bremen: pschulz@uni-bremen.de, by **15 September 2019**.

The tentative timeline looks as follows:

15 September 2019:	CfP deadline for chapter abstracts
1 October 2019:	Notification of selected chapters
1 March 2020:	Deadline for first draft chapters (to be presented at one-day workshop)
March 2020:	One-day book workshop
June 2020:	Final chapters to be submitted to edited volume editors
August 2020:	Final manuscript to be submitted to the book series editors / publishers