The Missing Peace Initiative’s Young Scholars Workshop

Ten Years Since UNSCR 1820: Translating Scholarship into Policy for the Prevention of Sexual Violence

June 14 – 15, 2018 | Washington D.C.
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Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome! We look forward to your participation in the June 2018 Missing Peace Young Scholars Network Workshop. The two-day workshop will provide an opportunity to update your peers and senior colleagues on your work, examine the current state of research and identify gaps, challenges and new strands of research on preventing and ending sexual violence. In addition, we will explore the intersection of policy shaping at both the national and international levels and preventative efforts underway to address conflict-related sexual violence. Our objective is to ensure that scholars are well-equipped to communicate their research findings in an understandable and accessible manner to policy makers, where often innovative and important quantitative and qualitative research findings do not translate easily into the policy world.

The workshop will feature a presentation and discussion with Dr. Marie Berry, Assistant Professor of International Comparative Politics at the University of Denver. She will discuss her work examining how postwar political settlements have created hierarchies of victimhood that facilitated new social divisions and fractured women’s collective organizing, and what these impacts mean for the future prevention of sexual violence.

Finally, we have organized a “Speed Briefing” session, where through a series of small group discussions, members of the Missing Peace Young Scholars Network will have the chance to meet and discuss their research with policy makers and policy shapers in the field of diplomacy, defense, and development.

In this book, you will find the agenda and biographies of the Young Scholars, guest speakers and workshop organizers and staff. You will also find logistical information to help you navigate the workshop. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to ask our staff for help.

Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast
Director, Gender Policy and Strategy
United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat
President
Women In International Security (WIIS)

Ms. Kim Thuy Seelinger, JD
Director, Sexual Violence Program
Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley School of Law

Dr. Inger Skjelsbæk
Researcher Professor II
Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO)
The Missing Peace Initiative

Conflict-related sexual violence is increasingly recognized as a threat to international peace and security. From violent extremists in Syria to conflicts in the Balkans, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor and Guatemala, state and non-state armed actors have used sexual violence against women, men, and children to intimidate and to terrorize populations, and as a means of displacing people from contested territory, destroying communities, and silencing victims. Even after these wars have ended, sexual violence often goes unaddressed — which, in turn, undermines reconstruction efforts and the transition to more stable, secure, and peaceful societies.

Despite the increased international recognition of the serious impact that sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict poses to security and peace, initiatives to prevent or mitigate these violent acts continue to fall short. Even with the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolutions and important rulings in international criminal courts, existing international interventions may lack an integrated understanding of the causes of sexual violence and its long-term implications for societies at large.

In February 2013, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Women In International Security (WIIS), the Human Rights Center at the University of California-Berkeley School of Law, and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) convened a group of scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and military and civil society actors to examine the issue of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings, identify gaps in knowledge and reporting, and explore how to increase the effectiveness of current responses to such violence.

The Missing Peace Initiative continues to build on the work of the first symposium held in 2013 in Washington, DC. An on-the-ground training for practitioners from the Global South was held in August 2015 in Kampala, Uganda. Additionally, in December 2017, the Missing Peace Initiative held an international conference in Oslo, Norway where scholars discussed international criminal prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence and its impacts on peacebuilding.

The Missing Peace Initiative continues to have impact through the Young Scholars Network workshop. The Young Scholars Network workshops were also held in May 2014, June 2015, June 2016, and July 2017. The Missing Peace Initiative is an iterative process that captures the momentum built each year and further pushes the boundaries toward ending sexual violence.
Young Scholars Network

The aim of the overall Missing Peace Initiative is to include the latest academic research findings as well as insights from practitioners working in conflict and post-conflict situations, including civil society actors, the military, and police. This initiative has also launched the Young Scholar Network – aimed at supporting PhD candidates and recently minted PhDs in their research and the dissemination of research results to the practitioner and policy communities.

Some of the most innovative research on sexual violence is being undertaken by Young Scholars* who spend months or even years in the field researching, analyzing and writing about the complex and difficult aspects of understanding and preventing conflict-related sexual violence. These scholars are frequently on the cutting edge of data collection methodologies and have important insights to share with the broader academic and policy communities.

However, these same scholars often face challenges in disseminating the results of their research to mainstream international relations and security studies communities. In addition, they may lack the necessary networks to disseminate their work to the policy and practitioner communities. The Young Scholars Network was formed in 2013 by an international steering committee to help overcome these challenges.

The organizers of the 2013 Missing Peace Initiative, with their combined extensive networks and contacts in academia, policymaking and non-governmental communities, are committed to helping with the development of a network to aid Young Scholars in their research dissemination and professional development.

The objectives of the June 2018 workshop, Ten Years Since UNSCR 1820: Translating Scholarship into Policy for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, are to:

1. Examine the state of research and identify gaps, challenges and new strands of research on preventing sexual violence;

2. Ensure scholars are well-equipped to communicate their research findings in an understandable and accessible manner to policy makers;

3. Brief policy shapers and policy makers on current research findings through a series of small and rapid group interactions; and

4. Publish a USIP special report on sexual violence.

*Young Scholars are defined as recently minted PhD’s or PhD candidates with well-developed proposals.
Steering Committee Organizations

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) was founded in 1984 by Congress as an independent, national institute dedicated to the proposition that peace is possible, practical and essential for U.S. and global security. USIP pursues this vision of a world without violent conflict by working on the ground with local partners. The Institute provides people, organizations and governments at every level with the tools, knowledge and training to manage conflict so it does not become violent, and resolve it when it does. The Gender Policy and Strategy team coordinates the gender-related work of the U.S. Institute of Peace, as well as collaborates with national and international organizations, governments, the military and civil society on concerns related to gender, conflict, and peacebuilding. For more information, please visit www.usip.org.

Women In International Security (WIIS) is the premier organization in the world dedicated to advancing the leadership and professional development of women in the field of international peace and security. WIIS (pronounced “wise”) sponsors leadership training, mentoring, and networking programs as well as substantive events focused on current policy problems. WIIS also supports research projects and policy engagement initiatives on critical international security issues, including the nexus between gender and security. WIIS is a membership organization and has members –women and men—in 47 countries on 6 continents. WIIS members work in international organizations, government, NGOs, think tanks, universities, corporations, and media outlets around the world. For more or to become a member, go to http://wiisglobal.org/.

The Human Rights Center at Berkeley Law promotes human rights and international justice worldwide and trains the next generation of human rights researchers and advocates. HRC is an independent research and training center that applies innovative technologies and scientific methods to investigate war crimes and other serious violations of human rights. Based on HRC’s findings, the center recommends specific policy measures to protect vulnerable populations and hold perpetrators accountable. HRC trains advocates around the world and provide them with the skills and tools necessary to document human rights abuses and turn this information into effective action. For more information, please visit https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/human-rights-center/.

The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) conducts research on the conditions for peaceful relations between states, groups and people. Founded in 1959, PRIO is an independent research institution known for its effective synergy of basic and policy-relevant research. In addition to such research, PRIO conducts graduate training and is engaged in the promotion of peace through conflict resolution, dialogue and reconciliation, public information and policymaking activities. Researchers at PRIO work to identify new trends in global conflict, as well as to formulate and document new understandings of and responses to armed conflict. For more information, please visit https://www.prio.org/.
Workshop Logistics

Arrival Information

Hotel
For participants travelling from out-of-town, USIP will provide accommodations at the State Plaza Hotel (2117 E Street Northwest, Washington, DC, 20037). The hotel is less than 1/2 mile away or about a 10 min walk from USIP.

USIP Security
USIP is located at 2301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20037, the entrance to the building is on 23rd Street. Upon arrival at USIP, you will be required to go through a magnetometer. You will need to send all of your belongings through the X-Ray machine. Please note that if you do bring your laptop or tablet, you will be required to turn the device on for security purposes. You must bring a government issued photo ID (passport, driver’s license, etc.) to pass through security. You will be directed to the reception desk to obtain your USIP issued badge. A workshop staff member will meet you at the reception each morning to guide you to the workshop meeting room.

Staff
Should you have any questions or concerns during the program, please talk to USIP’s Ms. Danielle Robertson (Cell Phone: 215-806-7727) or any other workshop staff. A staff member will be in the workshop rooms at all times and will be happy to assist you. Pictures and bios can be found in the “Workshop Staff” section.

Meals

Breakfast and lunch
Breakfast and lunch will be provided at the workshop on both Thursday, June 14th and Friday, June 15th. Please see the agenda for further details regarding breakfast and lunch times.

Group Dinner
There will be a group dinner Thursday evening at Chantal de Jonge Oudraat’s home (2222 King Place NW, Washington, DC 20007). The group will taxi from USIP for wine and a buffet dinner. If the weather is nice, the dinner will be outside.

Navigating the Symposium

Workshop Room (B203/204)
The main activities of the workshop will take place in USIP’s two Medium Conference Rooms (B203/204). B203/204 is located on the 2nd floor in the middle of Leland Atrium.
Agenda

Day One—Thursday, June 14th

8:30 a.m.  Coffee/Breakfast and Conversation

9:00 a.m.  Welcome from the Missing Peace Initiative Steering Committee & Young Scholar Introductions
  - Kathleen Kuehnast, PhD, Director of Gender Policy and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace
  - Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, PhD, President, Women In International Security
  - Inger Skjelsbæk, PhD, Research Professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) (remote)
  - Kim Thuy Seelinger, JD, Director, Sexual Violence Program, Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley School of Law (remote)

9:30 a.m.  Report Out on Policy Messaging
  - Jim Rupert, Senior Writer/Editor, U.S. Institute of Peace

9:45 a.m.  Presentations from Young Scholars on Current Research*
  - Pearl Karuhanga Atuhaire, Program Specialist, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, UN Women – Liberia Office
  - Sophie Ramløv Barclay, Political Officer, EU Delegation to the UAE
  - Kate Falb, PhD, Senior Researcher, International Rescue Committee

10:30 a.m.  Break

11:00 a.m.  Presentations from Young Scholars on their Current Research
  - Nicole Gerring, PhD Candidate, Wayne State University
  - Laura Huber, PhD Candidate, Emory University
  - Sophie Huve, LLM, Law Fellow, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
  - Jocelyn Kelly, PhD, Johns Hopkins University

12:00 p.m.  Working Lunch with Guest Scholar

12:30 p.m.  Sexual Violence and Hierarchies of Victimhood
  The lunch program will include a presentation and discussion lead by Marie Berry based on her work examining how postwar political settlements have created hierarchies of victimhood that facilitated new social divisions and fractured women’s collective organizing, and what these impacts mean for the future prevention of sexual violence.
  - Marie Berry, PhD, Assistant Professor, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

* Members of USIP’s Gender Exchange will join for this lunch discussion.
1:30 p.m. **Presentations from Young Scholars on their Current Research (continued)**
- Roudabeh Kishi, PhD, Research Director, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED)
- Mirgul Kuhns, CVE, Youth and Gender Specialist
- Chloé Lewis, DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford
- Summer Lindsey, PhD Candidate, Columbia University

2:30 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. **Presentations from Young Scholars on their Current Research (continued)**
- Grace Ndirangu, MSc Student African Nazarene University – Nairobi
- Clemence Pinaud, PhD, Assistant Professor, Indiana University

3:30 p.m. **Major Themes of Research Presentations**
Participants will discuss the major and recurring themes that were present throughout each of the scholars’ research. This discussion will foreshadow a core message for Friday’s meeting with policy makers.

5:00 p.m. **End of Day**

5:15 p.m. **Group Dinner**
A group dinner will follow the program at the home of Chantal de Jonge Oudraat. We hope to continue discussions and enjoy the conversation. The group will taxi from USIP for wine and a buffet dinner.

*Each scholar will have a total of 10 minutes to present their current research as if it were a verbal policy brief.*
Agenda

Day Two—Friday, June 15th

8:30 a.m.  Coffee/Breakfast and Conversation

9:00 a.m.  Welcome and Preparation for Policy Engagement
The group will distill a core message for a policy audience. Participants will finalize details for the policy engagement.

10:30 a.m.  10 Years of Sexual Violence Prevention Efforts: Messages for Policy Makers (Peace Links)

Welcome
•  Joseph Hewitt, PhD, Vice President, Center for Policy, Learning and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace

“How to Message for Policy Makers”
•  Jamie Staley, Republican Fellow, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
•  Kimberly Stanton, Senior Democratic Fellow, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
•  Kathleen Kuehnast, PhD, Director of Gender Policy and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace

Speed Briefing with Policy Makers
Through a series of small group interactions, each of the Young Scholars will meet with policy shapers in the field of diplomacy, defense and government.
•  Rusty Barber, Director, Program Development and Operations, U.S. Institute of Peace
•  Richmond Blake, Advisor, Office of the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, U.S. Department of State
•  Stephenie Foster, Partner, Smash Strategies
•  Joseph Hewitt, PhD, Vice President, Center for Policy, Learning and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace
•  Stephanie Mulhern Ogorzalek, Senior Policy Advisor, Officer of Global Women’s Issues, U.S. Department of State
•  Kate Rebholz, Foreign Policy Fellow, Office of Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)
•  Amb. Steven E. Steiner (ret.), Gender Advisor, Gender Policy and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace
•  Rebecca Turkington, Assistant Director, Women and Foreign Policy Program, Council on Foreign Relations
•  Anne Witkowsky, Senior Fellow, CSIS and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
12:00 p.m.  Working Lunch with Policy Makers (*Peace Links*)
Participants will have the opportunity to network with Congressional staff members and other policy makers over lunch.

1:00 p.m.  Debrief on Policy Engagement

1:30 p.m.  Planning for Special Report
During this afternoon session, participants will decide on a theme for a policy brief and create a plan of action for the writing of a Special Report to be published by USIP in fall 2018.

2:30 p.m.  Break

3:00 p.m.  Action Steps for Special Report
Participants will confirm writing assignments and deadlines.

3:30 p.m.  Next Steps for the Missing Peace Young Scholars Network

4:15 p.m.  Workshop Evaluation

4:30 p.m.  End of Workshop
Ms. Pearl Karuhanga Atuhaire, Program Specialist, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, UN Women – Liberia Office

Ms. Pearl Karuhanga Atuhaire has over eight years of experience on issues of gender, peace and security, she is a Program Specialist, sexual and gender-based violence at UN Women Liberia office. Prior to joining UN Women, Pearl worked with UN Women Uganda on a 6 months Practicum, and with one regional and national Organization on women, peace and security issues. She is a doctorate student at Durban University of Technology, South Africa where she is in her last academic year pursuing Peace and Conflict Studies. Pearl holds a Masters’ degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies from Makerere University, Uganda. Pearl is a Mandela Washington Fellow for Young African Leaders 2016 and also a Women in International Security (WIIS) Fellow, 2017, both undertaken in the USA. She is also an alumna for the Coady International Institute, St Xavier University in Canada where she undertook a training on Women in Community Leadership in May 2017. As a researcher, Pearl has published widely on issues of gender, peace and security. Pearl believes that just like cultural practices are made norms by society, gender equality too can be made a way of life.

Ms. Sophie Ramløv Barclay, Political Officer, European Union Delegation to the UAE

Ms. Sophie Ramløv Barclay is a political officer at the EU Delegation to the UAE covering humanitarian and women’s issues in the region. She is their Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders focal point. Previously she has worked for UNWRA in Lebanon, the EU Commission in Brussels, Belgium and the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. In 2016-2017, she conducted 9 months of ethnographic fieldwork for Copenhagen University in a Palestinian Refugee Camp in Lebanon where she observed the plight and tenacity of dispossessed Palestinian/Syrian women. Sophie believes in the use of diverse media - ethnography, photography, film, theatre, storytelling - in order to address pertinent socio-political issues at local, regional and international levels. She has extensive knowledge on EU Cultural Diplomacy policies and has coordinated several arts festivals in Europe and the Middle East before joining the EU. She holds an MA in Anthropology from the University of Edinburgh and an MA in Political Science from the University of Pompeu Fabra.

Dr. Kate Falb, Senior Researcher, International Rescue Committee

Dr. Kate Falb is a Senior Researcher with the International Rescue Committee, a global humanitarian aid organization. At the IRC, she focuses on evaluating programming to better prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in humanitarian emergencies. She specifically lead three research portfolios including reducing family violence in humanitarian settings, improving adolescent safety and wellbeing in emergencies, and understanding the linkages between cash transfer programs and protection risks. Key research projects include (1) understanding the impact of cash transfers on women’s experiences of sexual exploitation in Raqqa, Syria and (2) understanding the impact of an engaging men program on reductions of violence against women in DRC. Her training is in social epidemiology and she holds a Doctorate of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health, a Master of Health Science from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a Bachelor of Science
from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining the IRC, she served as a health education coordinator along the Thai-Burma border and completed post-doctoral training at the Yale School of Public Health where she focused on evaluating a socioeconomic empowerment program in conflict-affected communities in rural Côte d’Ivoire.

**Ms. Nicole E. Gerring, PhD Candidate & Part-Time Faculty Member, Wayne State University**

Ms. Nicole E. Gerring is a doctoral candidate (ABD) in political science at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She has expertise in international relations, sexual and gender-based violence, and women’s political empowerment. In her doctoral dissertation, Gerring uses quantitative methods to examine the relationship between women’s political empowerment and interstate conflict (1930-2010) and finds that women’s civil society rights are related to less use of force and war. Gerring’s research has been published by the U.S. Agency for International Development and in Electoral Studies. She is currently working on a book chapter on the security threats posed by gender-based violence for an edited volume, Understanding New Forms of Insecurity in a Globalized World (forthcoming, Routledge). Gerring teaches courses in world politics, statistics, and American Government at Wayne State University. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, in politics and journalism at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

**Ms. Laura Huber, PhD Candidate, Emory University**

Ms. Laura Huber is currently a PhD candidate in Political Science at Emory University. Her research focuses on international relations, conflict, security sector reform, and gender. Ms. Huber’s dissertation examines the mediating role that conflict plays in the adoption and implementation of gender reforms, including sexual violence laws and policies, with an emphasis on the relative influence of international and domestic actors. Her other research investigates the interaction between gender equality and organizational gender ideology on contentious politics, civilian targeting, and sexual violence, the gendered practices of intergovernmental security institutions, and the effect of peacekeeping missions on gendered security sector reforms. Her work has been published in Conflict Management and Peace Science and is forthcoming in the Routledge Handbook on Gender and Security. She is also the graduate assistant for the Human Rights Program at the Carter Center where she will be working on women’s rights issues. Huber received her B.A. from the University of Dayton and M.A. from Emory University.

**Ms. Sophie Huve, LLM, Law Fellow, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security**

Ms. Sophie Huve is the 2017-2018 Hillary Rodham Clinton Law Fellow with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. While at the Institute, Sophie authored a report on the use of UN sanctions to address conflict-related sexual violence. She received her LLM in International Legal Studies at Georgetown University Law Center, with a certificate in International Human Rights. Before coming to Georgetown Law, Sophie interned with the Security Council Affairs Division at the United Nations, where she worked on the UN sanctions regimes, and published a book on Russia’s foreign policy towards the United Nations. Sophie graduated from law school in France (Sorbonne Paris 1 University and Assas University) and studied for a while in Moscow. She also received a certificate in International Relations from the IHEI – Assas Paris II University.
Dr. Jocelyn Kelly, Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

Dr. Jocelyn Kelly is a fellow at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and has previously served as the director for Harvard Humanitarian Initiative’s (HHI) Women in War program, where she designs and implements projects to examine issues relating to gender, peace, and security in fragile states. Kelly has been conducting health-related research using qualitative and quantitative research methods for over eight years both in national and international settings. She has given briefings related to gender and security to the United Nations Security Council, the U.S. State Department, USAID, the World Bank, OFDA, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. Prior to joining HHI, Kelly worked as an Emergency Management Specialist in Hurricane Katrina-affected areas and acted as a liaison to the FEMA Public Assistance Chief in Louisiana. Kelly's international work has focused on understanding the health needs of vulnerable populations in Eastern and Central Africa and has included working with Uganda Human Rights commission to launch the first office in Africa promoting the Right to Health.

Dr. Roudabeh Kishi, Research Director, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED)

Dr. Roudabeh Kishi is Research Director of the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) – a disaggregated conflict collection, analysis and crisis mapping project – where she oversees the quality, production, coverage and analysis of data across all regions, and aids in new partnerships with local sources and users around the world. A recent project she is directing explores political violence against women and its impact on the political participation of women from the local to national scales. She is currently based in Madison as an Honorary Fellow at the University of Wisconsin at the Center for Research on Gender and Women. She holds a PhD in Government & Politics from the University of Maryland and completed post-doctoral work in Human Geography at the University of Sussex. She works as a consultant for various organizations - including the World Bank and the Center for International Development and Conflict Management - on a number of projects with regard to conflict and global development. She is a pro-bono faculty member at the University of the People - a non-profit, tuition-free, accredited, online university serving students around the world, including in conflict zones where access to higher education is limited - where she regularly teaches a course on globalization and its impacts on citizenship, ethnic and religious issues, migration, public health, poverty, and wealth.

Ms. Mirgul Kuhns, CVE, Youth and Gender Specialist

Ms. Mirgul Kuhns has over seven years of program management experience and possess expertise in countering violent extremism (CVE) via social media and through field work with communities. In this work, she has gained substantial experience in conducting research, writing situational briefs and policy recommendations, and coordinating communication for strategic purposes. In addition to research, analysis, and program management, she enjoys presenting the resulting knowledge to large and diverse audiences to increase awareness of gender inequality, political exclusion, and CVE. Mirgul believes the key to addressing these issues is dialogue and collaboration and that both activities lack momentum until informed by quality research and analysis. Mirgul’s appreciation for the power of research and analysis was awakened during her graduate experience as a Fulbright Scholar in 2013-2015 and through the peacebuilding, grassroots organizing, and development work she did in the United States and Kyrgyzstan. In rural Kentucky and the blood-stained streets of Osh, she began to see the connections between security studies and providing voices for the underrepresented. She also gained management and communication skills, which were useful then and in her past two assignments at Search for Common Ground and UN Women.
Ms. Chloé Lewis, DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford

Ms. Chloé Lewis is finalizing her PhD in International Development at the University of Oxford where she is researching responses to sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Drawing on extensive research conducted at the United Headquarters in New York and in DRC between 2013-2017, her dissertation examines the development of internationally-driven responses to sexual violence, including at the level of the UN Security Council, and their operationalization in DRC. In particular, Chloé critically explores how different facets of the response architecture ‘see’ and ‘engage’ women and men and to what effect. Alongside her doctorate, Chloé has worked as a Policy Research Fellow with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York, as well as with the Human Rights Center Sexual Violence Program at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law researching judicial responses to and accountability for sexual violence in DRC. More recently, she worked with the World Bank and IRC on a large-scale and mixed methods evaluation of an intimate partner violence prevention programme promoting behavioural change with men in eastern DRC. The first set of findings of the evaluation will be published in Gender & Society. Most of all, Chloé is looking forward to life after the PhD.

Ms. Summer Lindsey, PhD Candidate, Columbia University & Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar, USIP

Ms. Summer Lindsey is a PhD Candidate in Political Science at Columbia University and a Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar at the United States Institute of Peace. Her research addresses questions about armed conflict and its effects on human security in its aftermath, with a particular focus on violence against women. In her dissertation and book project, she provides a theory of norm change during war and demonstrates the implications of this norm change for women’s post-conflict security. She uses a three-pronged approach—quantitative, experimental, and qualitative in nature—to empirically test attitude, norm, and behavior change in relation to armed conflict across eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Her study informs our understanding of post conflict environments while pushing the field of political science into new territory. In addition, her work aims to enrich the lives of the other “half the sky”. Summer has conducted fieldwork in Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Croatia. Her dissertation research has been supported by the National Science Foundation; the United States Institute of Peace; Folke Bernadotte Academy; and the Earth Institute, Harriman Institute, and Department of Political Science at Columbia University. She has also worked on two randomized control trials, evaluating a program designed to reduce violence against women in Madyha Pradesh, India and a community-driven development program in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. In other work, Summer examines reporting on rape in the international media.

Ms. Grace Ndirangu, MSc Student, African Nazarene University – Nairobi

Ms. Grace Ndirangu is an experienced practitioner in humanitarian work with eight years’ focus on case management, livelihoods projects and psychosocial programs. She has been working with urban refugees from the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region in Africa who are living in Nairobi since 2010. She has been involved in the design and implementation of Sharia compliant saving and loaning model for use by refugees from the Horn of Africa as well as designing and implementing a model of livelihoods that focus on building of social enterprises as a measure to build resilience among refugees and asylums seekers living in urban areas in Kenya. Grace is a graduate of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa with a Bachelor’s Degree in Arts and Social Sciences; Majoring in Sociology and a Minor in Political Science. She is currently pursuing an MSc in Governance,
Peace and Security from the African Nazarene University in Nairobi. Grace is a United States Institute of Peace (USIP) 2016 Generation Change fellow and a 2017 WIIS fellow. Her research is on effects of forced displacement on the human security of Congolese refugees. She has previously published a policy brief on sexual gender based violence in refugee settings.

Dr. Clemence Pinaud, Assistant Professor, Indiana University

Dr. Clemence Pinaud is currently an Assistant Professor at IU’s Department of International Studies. She graduated in 2013 from the Sorbonne University in Paris, France, with a PhD in History on the impact of the second civil war (1983-2005) on women in South Sudan. She was a post-doctoral Fellow at New York University’s campus in Shanghai, China and a Fulbright fellow at the Center for African Studies of UC Berkeley. She has undertaken research in the Philippines, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, and spent two years in South Sudan in 2009 and 2010 working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as the lead investigator of a multi-agency survey on protection and gender-based violence issues. She returned to South Sudan several times since the beginning of the third civil war (2013) and continued to work for international aid agencies. Her work has appeared in African Affairs and the Review of African Political Economy amongst others. She is currently working towards the completion of a book on the social and military history of the second and third civil wars in South Sudan.
Workshop Guests

Mr. Rusty Barber, Director, Program Development and Operations, U.S. Institute of Peace

**Mr. Rusty Barber** is director of Program Development & Operations at the U.S. Institute of Peace. In this capacity, he manages strategic development of USIP’s partnerships with key interagency counterparts, primarily in the U.S. Departments of State, Defense and USAID. Barber previously served as senior advisor for International Operations, as well as director of Iraq Programs at USIP. Prior to that, he was chief of party for USIP’s mission in Baghdad, where he managed a staff of Iraqi program specialists responsible for implementation and oversight of the Institute’s projects and grant programs in Iraq. Before joining the Institute in March 2007, Barber served as a political officer in the Foreign Service, holding posts in Central and South Asia and Europe. As a member of the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, he was responsible for Central Asia and national minorities policies. In that capacity, Barber helped lead the organization’s response to political instability in Kyrgyzstan in 2005. From 2003 to 2004, he served in Pakistan, overseeing the embassy’s evaluation of Pakistan’s counterterrorism efforts. From 1990 to 2001, he was a founding partner and president of Voyageur East Company, a successful global import and trade consulting company focused on developing manufacturing resources in transitioning economies. The company still operates throughout Eastern Europe and the Far East. Barber holds a B.A. in Russian language with a concentration in government from Dartmouth College and an M.A. in international relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Dr. Marie Berry, Assistant Professor, International Comparative Politics, University of Denver

**Dr. Marie Berry** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Denver, where she is an affiliate of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy. She is the Co-Director the Inclusive Global Leadership Initiative (IGLI), an effort to catalyze research, education, and programming centered on the role that women and other underrepresented groups play in leading movements to advance peace and security across the world. Her first book, War, Women, and Power: From Violence to Mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina (Cambridge University Press), examines the impact of war and genocide on women's political mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia. She is currently involved in several collaborative research projects, including on women's contributions to innovations in peacebuilding in Nepal; the durability of hybrid regimes in Rwanda and South Africa; and, with the Rift Valley Institute, on the influence of women in Kenyan politics. Her work has been published in places like Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, New Political Economy, Mobilization, Politics & Gender, Foreign Policy, The Society Pages, and Political Violence @ A Glance. She completed her PhD in sociology at UCLA in June 2015.

Mr. Richmond Blake, Advisor, Office of the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, U.S. Department of State

**Mr. Richmond Blake** serves as an advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights at the U.S. Department of State. In 2013, he received the State Department’s Human Rights and Democracy Achievement Award for his work as a political officer in La Paz. The master’s thesis he co-authored, “Protecting Vulnerable LGBT Populations: An Opportunity for U.S. Global Leadership,” was awarded Harvard University’s top prize for graduate-level research in the field of human rights in 2011. Blake received his BA from Davidson College and his MPP at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.
Ms. Stephenie Foster, Partner, Smash Strategies

Ms. Stephenie Foster is a founding partner of Smash Strategies, which provides strategic advice to corporations, institutions and philanthropists to ensure that their investments in women and girls are effective and transformational. For the last five years, she served at the United States Department of State, most recently as a Senior Advisor/Counselor in the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues, and before that at the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan where she focused on women and civil society. Prior to joining the State Department, she had her own consulting firm, with an emphasis on domestic and international policy advocacy, government affairs, program development and training, and law. In both the US and abroad, she has worked extensively on programs to increase core leadership, civic engagement and advocacy skills, particularly of women; strategic planning; corporate and democratic governance; and project planning and management. Foster has worked in private law practice, as a Chief of Staff to United States Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Chris Dodd (D-CT), and in senior management positions in the non-profit sector. She has published extensively on women and politics, including two manuals: Advocacy and Running for Office: A Training Manual for Women and Ending Violence Against Women and Human Trafficking: A Guide to New Strategies (with Cindy Dyer).

Dr. Joseph Hewitt, Vice President, Center for Policy, Learning and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace

Dr. Joseph Hewitt is the vice president for Policy, Learning and Strategy. He leads USIP’s efforts to capture learning from the Institute's program activities and apply it for more effective policy engagement and strategy formation. He brings more than twenty years of experience working to apply rigorous analyses of conflict dynamics to strengthen tools for conflict assessment, improve the design of peacebuilding programs and refine systems for program monitoring and evaluation. Previously, he was a senior conflict and peacebuilding advisor in USAID’s Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation. In that capacity, he directed the office’s research activities and development of analytic tools to support USAID’s work in fragile and conflict-affected countries. In addition, he represented USAID in both international and U.S. policy processes to strengthen policy coherence for engagement in conflict-affected and fragile states. Before joining USAID, Dr. Hewitt was the associate director of the Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the University of Maryland. He directed multiple projects for the center, including a multi-year effort to train civil society organizations in West Africa to conduct local conflict assessments, as well as leading the center’s development of forecasting models for future conflict and political instability. Prior to joining the University of Maryland, Hewitt was a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri. Dr. Hewitt’s publications have appeared in the Journal of Conflict Resolution, the Journal of Peace Research and International Interactions. His most recent book is Peace and Conflict 2012, which was co-authored with Ted R. Gurr and Jonathan Wilkenfeld. Hewitt received his PhD in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland and his B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Ms. Stephanie Mulhern Ogorzalek, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Global Women’s Issues, U.S. Department of State

Ms. Stephanie Ogorzalek joined the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues at the U.S. Department of State in 2018, where she leads the office’s work on gender-based violence and multilateral affairs. She previously worked for four years in the State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, where she coordinated democracy and human rights policy in South America, West Africa, and Central Africa and served as DRL’s lead policy officer for gender and anti-corruption issues in Africa. At State, Stephanie also worked in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs’ Office of Policy, Planning, and Coordination. Prior to joining the Department of State, Stephanie served as a Strategic Communications Analyst covering West Africa and South America for the Department of Defense, where she advised policymakers on the use of strategic messaging to
prevent and mitigate violent conflict, encourage defections and community reconciliation, and promote peace in advance of national elections. She also served as a program manager with the Inter-American Development Bank in Bogota, Colombia, focusing on combatting gender-based violence and advancing post-conflict opportunities for women. Stephanie holds a MA from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and BA from the University of Notre Dame. She is originally from Buffalo, NY.

Ms. Kate Rebholz, Foreign Affairs Fellow, Office of Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)

Ms. Kate Rebholz serves as the Foreign Affairs Fellow in Senator Ed Markey’s (D-MA) office. Senator Edward J. Markey, a consumer champion and national leader on energy, environmental protection and telecommunications policy, has a prolific legislative record on major issues across the policy spectrum and a deep commitment to improving the lives of the people of Massachusetts and our country. Whether the issue is climate change, clean energy, safeguarding privacy, nuclear non-proliferation, investor protection or preserving an open Internet that spurs competition and consumer choice, Senator Markey stands up for the priorities and values of Massachusetts.

Mr. Jim Rupert, Senior Writer/Editor, Public Affairs and Communications, U.S. Institute of Peace

Mr. Jim Rupert covered foreign affairs from more than 70 countries over 30-plus years, primarily as a news reporter and in recent years as a writer/editor at the Atlantic Council and at USIP. He began his work abroad as a Peace Corps volunteer teacher (mechanics and welding) in Morocco. He has been a resident correspondent in Rabat, Tunis, Paris, New Delhi, Tashkent, Kyiv, Abidjan, and Islamabad, focusing heavily on the Muslim world and the United States’ relations with it. Jim served as a correspondent and editor for The Washington Post (15 years), New York’s Newsday (seven years), and Bloomberg News (four years). He recently edited a book on the militarization of U.S. foreign policy in the half-century since President Eisenhower warned Americans about the military-industrial complex.

Mr. Jamie Staley, Republican Fellow, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Mr. Jamie Staley is the senior professional staff at the U.S. House of Representatives for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. He manages the Lantos Human Rights Commission under the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for Republican co-chair, Congressman Randy Hultgren (IL-14). The bi-partisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission was established with the unanimous consent of the United States House of Representatives in 2008. Membership in the Commission is free and open to all members of the House of Representatives. The Commission is charged with promoting, defending and advocating for international human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments. The Commission undertakes public education activities, provides expert human rights advice and encourages members of Congress to actively engage in human rights matters. In carrying out its mandate, the Commission collaborates with congressional staff, the U.S. Senate and the executive branch, and continually engages with national and international civil society organizations. The Commission is chaired by two members of the House of Representatives who are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader. For the 115th Congress, Rep. James P. McGovern (MA-02) is the Democratic Co-Chair, and Rep. Randy M. Hultgren (IL-14) is the Republican Co-Chair.

Ms. Kimberly Stanton, Senior Democratic Fellow, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Ms. Kimberly Stanton is the senior professional staff at the U.S. House of Representatives for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Se manages the Lantos Human Rights Commission under the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for Republican co-chair, Congressman James P. McGovern (D-MA). The bi-partisan Tom Lantos
Human Rights Commission was established with the unanimous consent of the United States House of Representatives in 2008. Membership in the Commission is free and open to all members of the House of Representatives. The Commission is charged with promoting, defending and advocating for international human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments. The Commission undertakes public education activities, provides expert human rights advice and encourages members of Congress to actively engage in human rights matters. In carrying out its mandate, the Commission collaborates with congressional staff, the U.S. Senate and the executive branch, and continually engages with national and international civil society organizations. The Commission is chaired by two members of the House of Representatives who are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader. For the 115th Congress, Rep. James P. McGovern (MA-02) is the Democratic Co-Chair, and Rep. Randy M. Hultgren (IL-14) is the Republican Co-Chair.

Ambassador Steven E. Steiner, Gender Advisor, Gender Policy and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace

Ambassador Steven E. Steiner is a gender advisor for the U.S. Institute of Peace. He previously served in the Department of State’s Office of Global Women’s Issues and the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. He also was the director of the Department’s Iraqi Women’s Democracy Initiative. Steiner served for 36 years in the United States Foreign Service. He served from 1983 to 1988 as director of Defense Programs on the National Security Council Staff. He was named by President Reagan as the U.S. representative to the Special Verification Commission, the implementing body for the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), and was named by President Bush in September 1991 to serve as the U.S. Representative to the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission, the implementing body for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). Ambassador Steiner received the Secretary of State’s Distinguished Service Award in 2002, Presidential Meritorious Service Awards in 1990 and 1992, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency’s Superior Honor Award in 1993. In May 1983, he received the Department of State's Superior Honor Award for his work on European security issues. Born in Pennsylvania, Steiner received a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University in 1963 and a Master’s Degree in international relations from Columbia University in 1966. He is a member of The Council on Foreign Relations, The Washington Institute on Foreign Affairs, and the U.S.-Afghan Women’s Council, and he serves on the Board of the Council for a Community of Democracies.

Ms. Rebecca Turkington, Assistant Director, Women and Foreign Policy Program, Council on Foreign Relations

Ms. Rebecca Turkington is the Assistant Director of the Women and Foreign Policy Program at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Prior to joining CFR she was a Program Manager at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security where she directed events and programming and co-authored a number of the Institute’s flagship publications, including “Women Leading Peace” and “Inclusive Justice,” for which she conducted field work in Kenya, Tunisia and Northern Ireland. Rebecca has worked on women’s political participation at the National Democratic Institute, the Women in Public Service Project, and the Moroccan Ministry of Interior. She holds a B.A. in History from Wellesley College and a M.A. in Security Studies from Georgetown University, concentrating in terrorism and substate violence.

Ms. Anne Witkowsky, Senior Fellow, CSIS & Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Ms. Anne A. Witkowsky is a senior fellow at CSIS and was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability and Humanitarian Affairs in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. In that capacity she had policy responsibility for humanitarian assistance and disaster response; DoD support to the security of U.S.
embassies; peacekeeping and stability operations; and international humanitarian law, rule of law and protection of human rights. She previously served as the Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator in the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) at the U.S. Department of State, from August 2012-December 2013, serving also as the CT Bureau’s Deputy Coordinator for Homeland Security and Multilateral Affairs from 2009. In the position of Deputy Coordinator, she was responsible for homeland security matters related to overseas counterterrorism, terrorism designations and sanctions, screening and information sharing programs, and counterterrorism policy and programs in multilateral organizations. She is a recipient of both Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards from the Department of State, and of the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service. Ms. Witkowsky is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a B.A. in Russian and East European studies from Yale University. She received her M.P.A., with a concentration in international security, from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.
Missing Peace Initiative Steering Committee

Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast, Director, Gender Policy and Strategy, U.S. Institute of Peace

Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast is director of the Gender Policy and Strategy team at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where she has worked since 2008. As a socio-cultural anthropologist, Kuehnast has focused on the different gendered impacts of violence and conflict on both men and women. In addition, her efforts have focused on the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325, including the critical role women should play in all aspects of peacebuilding. In this capacity, Kuehnast co-edited the volume, “Women and War: Power and Protection in the 21st Century” (2011). She has been a part of the international vanguard of introducing the concept of engaging men in conflict countries in the championing of women’s rights. Prior to USIP, Kuehnast worked 15 years in the international development field, primarily with the World Bank, where her role as a senior social scientist included research and project management on the thematic streams of women and poverty, social capital and community driven development in fragile and post-conflict societies. Kuehnast’s regional expertise is Central Asia, where she lived for several years in the post-Soviet country of Kyrgyzstan completing her doctoral dissertation research, which resulted in a number of publications on the impact of post-Soviet transition on Muslim women, including the co-edited volume, “Post-Soviet Women Encountering Transition: Nation Building, Economic Survival, and Civic Activism” (2004). Dr. Kuehnast is a recipient of the post-doctorate Mellon Foreign Fellowship at the Library of Congress, and also a former post-doctorate Kennan Institute Fellow at the Wilson Center. Kuehnast is the 2015 recipient of the Perdita Huston Human Rights Award of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area. Kuehnast holds a doctorate in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, President, Women In International Security

Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat is President of Women in International Security (WIIS). She has held this position since February 2013. She was also a Senior Advisor to the Center for Gender and Peacebuilding of the U.S. Institute of Peace and was the founding and executive director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) North America (2012-2014). Previous positions include: associate vice president and director of the U.S. Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Fellowship Program; adjunct associate professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; and senior fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. She has also held senior positions at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC; and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva. Her areas of specialization are: women, peace and security, gender, international organizations, arms control and disarmament, terrorism and countering violent extremism, peacekeeping, use of force, economic sanctions, U.S.-European relations, and women, peace and security. Dr. de Jonge Oudraat is co-editor with Kathleen Kuehnast and Helga Hernes of Women and War: Power and Protection in the 21st Century (2011, USIP Press). De Jonge Oudraat did her undergraduate studies at the University of Amsterdam and received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Paris II (Panthéon).
Ms. Kim Thuy Seelinger, JD, Director, Sexual Violence Program, Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley School of Law

Ms. Kim Thuy Seelinger, JD, is the Director of the Sexual Violence Program at the Human Rights Center. She oversees the center’s research, teaching, and writing on sexual violence during armed conflict and forced migration. Her current work focuses on legal accountability for wartime sexual violence, protection in humanitarian settings, and comparative sexual offenses legislation. She has conducted fieldwork in Haiti, Vietnam, Thailand, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Turkey, and Greece. Seelinger serves on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees’ inaugural Advisory Group on Gender, Forced Displacement, and Protection. She was also an expert commentator on the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, and is a member of the expert group on international guidelines on the documentation of sexual violence against men and boys. In addition to numerous HRC reports, Seelinger’s writing has appeared in the Columbia Human Rights Law Review, the Hastings International and Comparative Law Review, the International Review of the Red Cross, the Washington Post, and the Huffington Post. Seelinger is a recipient of the 2016 Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residency, as well as the 2015 Kathi Pugh Award for Exceptional Mentorship of Berkeley Law Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects. Before coming to HRC, Seelinger was a staff attorney at the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at UC Hastings College of the Law, where she co-taught the Refugee and Human Rights Clinic and represented asylum seekers fleeing gender-based violence. Prior to that, she was a Yale-China Association clinical legal education fellow at Yunnan University, China, and a staff attorney and Kirkland and Ellis Public Interest Fellow at the Lutheran Family and Community Services in New York City. Seelinger graduated from New York University School of Law.

Dr. Inger Skjelsbaek, Research Professor II, Peace Research Institute Oslo

Dr. Inger Skjelsbaek is research professor II and deputy director at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), and holds a PhD in Psychology from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). Her research interests include gender studies, political psychology, peace and conflict research, and research methodology. Previously, Skjelsbaek was a visiting researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. She maintains strong links with the University of Oslo, where she supervises M.A. and doctoral students and gives regular guest lectures. Skjelsbaek has received research grants from, among others, the Fulbright Foundation, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Research Council of Norway. She is currently working on a multiyear project focusing on sexual violence crimes from the Bosnian war, interviewing perpetrators who have received sentences in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). She has also worked as a guest researcher at the Human Rights Center at University of California-Berkeley.
Ms. Danielle Robertson, Senior Gender Specialist, U.S. Institute of Peace

Ms. Danielle Robertson is the senior gender specialist at the U.S. Institute of Peace where she develops tools and facilitates training on gender analysis and gender inclusion in peacebuilding. Danielle joined USIP’s Gender and Peacebuilding program in 2014 to coordinate the work of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group (U.S. CSWG) on Women, Peace and Security. The U.S. CSWG is a network of 35 civil society organizations that work to advance the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. In her current role, Danielle supports global initiatives related to gender equality. Specifically, she works with the Missing Peace Initiative, which focuses on the prevention and mitigation of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings. Her research interests include issues related to the historical memory of a conflict and its impact on the roles of men and women in post-conflict settings. Danielle holds a master’s degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in International Development from Pennsylvania State University.

Ms. Marissa Stinson, Navy Midshipman, U.S. Institute of Peace

Ms. Marissa Stinson is a rising First Class (senior) at the United States Naval Academy. She is a Political Science Major who has shown interest in the politics surrounding human trafficking, especially in Eastern Europe and Russia. Marissa is also heavily involved in the Sexual Harassment Assault Prevention Education (SHAPE) program the Naval Academy provides to its Midshipmen on how to prevent sexual assault/harassment as well as to change the culture pertaining to it. She will be the Commanding Officer of the program this fall and will oversee its 83 educators and curriculum. She also became a certified Victims Advocate for the Navy after completing a 40-hour training on how to respond and care for victims of sexual assault. Marissa will graduate a commissioned officer in May 2019 in either the Naval Aviation community or Surface Warfare community. She comes from a large military family, with her dad and two brothers who are Marines.

Ms. Isa van der Drift, Visiting Research Assistant, U.S. Institute of Peace

Ms. Isa van der Drift is a rising junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At UNC-CH, she majors in Peace, War and Defense with a concentration in National and International Security as well as Arab Cultures and is also a Morehead-Cain Scholar. Additionally, she is involved in the Carolina International Relations Association, where she was most recently the Director-General for the Model United Nations at Chapel Hill XVIII Conference, bringing over 600 high school students to her university’s campus for a weekend of debate. She is also involved in the university’s Honor Court, where students are responsible for the prosecution, defense, and determination of guilt and sanctioning for students who are accused of violating the honor code.
Each Young Scholar was asked to prepare a one-page summary of their current research. These summaries provide an overview of where their research currently stands and what questions the Young Scholars will seek to answer.

The following documents are organized alphabetically by last name of the Young Scholar.
Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women in post-conflict settings is prevalent, but the issue continues to be side-lined. It prevents women from exercising their fundamental human rights and it is also central to social, economic and health problems. Notwithstanding, humanitarian agencies and the international community have made significant progress in trying to address the issue including in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in Uganda. There is a dearth of scholarly research on SGBV against refugee women in post-conflict settings, specifically in refugee settlements and camps. This obscures evidence and hinders possible interventions against SGBV. As such, refugee women suffer a double jeopardy of SGBV: firstly, as women and secondly as refugees. That is why the main objective of this study was to explore the continuum of SGBV in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, by examining the causes of SGBV and the consequences it had on women and girl refugees. In order to achieve this objective, an action research design was applied through an intervention project that was formulated to provide sustainable solutions to SGBV in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. This research was conceived as participatory action research (AR) involving meaningful participation of both refugee women and men in formulating an empowerment project aimed at reducing SGBV in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. Qualitative data collection methods were employed in a methodological triangulation framework combining focus group discussion, key informant interviews and participant observation. The study was informed by three theories: the feminism theory, the ecological theory and the conflict resolution theories. The findings showed the prevalence of SGBV against female refugees four main forms respectively: sexual violence, physical violence, socio-economic violence and psychological violence. The study also revealed that male dominance entrenched in the patriarchal cultural values of Congolese refugees underscored the aforementioned forms of violence. The intervention project, named Mume Kwa Muke, was led by refugee men and women and conducted in five zones within Kyaka II refugee community to reduce SGBV in the refugee settlement. The action group was composed of 14 peer educators (7 women and 7 men) who used sensitization and awareness-raising mainly through drama, songs and one-on-one engagements to change community attitudes that reinforce SGBV. The action team created multiplier effects of reaching out, there are now: meaningful partnerships as a result of peer educators reaching out to others, increased women’s involvement in decision making, an increase in both trust and reconciliation at family and community levels leading to peaceful co-existence.
Title: Turning Neighbors into Enemies: Mobilizing Efforts for Strategic Sexual Violence During Ethnic Conflict

Palestinian camps across Lebanon have never been the ‘safe spaces’ as initially set up in their mandate as temporary shelters to protect refugees. All 12 currently existing Palestinian Camps in Lebanon have a history that shows they are not free from violence, fear and occupation. Their histories are filled with stories of women giving birth between dead bodies, explosions that mix blood with potato peels painting the roads red, fires being made in houses turned rubble after bombings to stay warm, large scale massacres, and long sieges creating hunger, isolation, and lasting feelings of being forgotten. And yet today, camps and the people that reside in them ‘exist’.

My research, based on nine months ethnographic fieldwork, takes place in one such refugee camp in the south of Beirut. My research looks at the affective experience of social marginality between a group of women that have been subjected to domination, violence and dispossession. In general, it looks at the meanings and values they have created in social survival, and more specifically it looks at how, in light of this violent past, perceived ‘safes spaces’ – be it the kindergarten, the home, or shelters (camps) – take on new roles. No longer just sites of protection, care and safety, they became sites in which the women I followed sought justice and recognition. Indeed, this research looks at the shifting place of the political. The project of life between the women I worked with shed light on three main concepts that my research attempts to analysis: betrayal, hosting and innocence. My research is currently in the writing phase. Throughout the nine months of living in the camp, I came to learn the intimate lives of the women I followed. In this time, I learn the deep complexities at play when addressing sensitive issues such as violence (be it sexual, physical or emotional) within communities that have been exposed to extreme violence and injustices. Not only this, my research hopes to contribute towards a critic of humanitarianism by shifting the dialogue from one of ‘victimhood’, ‘the supported’ and ‘eventually saved’, to one that acknowledges grief, betrayal, anger, and empowerment – perhaps even political outrage as opposed to simple compassion - as proposed by Ticktin (2016).

Title: Reducing Sexual Violence Against Adolescent Girls in Humanitarian Emergencies

Nascent evidence indicates that the millions of adolescent girls living in countries enduring conflict are often at increased risk of sexual violence, exploitation, physical abuse, and forced marriage. This heightened risk for experiencing violence may occur due to widespread instability and poverty, inequitable gender norms, school disruption, and a breakdown in community protection structures, etc. Yet, despite these immense needs, a recently completed systematic review found that there were only three evaluated programs that specifically focused on adolescent girls. To better support adolescent girls living in crisis settings, the International Rescue Committee developed and implemented the COMPASS (Creating Opportunities through Mentorship, Parental Involvement, and Safe Spaces) program in conflict-affected communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, refugee camps in Ethiopia, and in internally displaced camps in northern Pakistan. This approach included a life skills curricula delivered in safe spaces by young female mentors for girls, engagement with caregivers, and training of service providers. To evaluate whether such programming was effective in reducing sexual violence against adolescent girls and whether there was an incremental impact of adding a caregiver component to the overarching program model on reduction of sexual violence, two waitlisted-cluster randomized controlled trials were implemented in DRC and Ethiopia, in collaboration with our academic partners at Columbia University. The feasibility and acceptability of COMPASS was also assessed through a mixed methodology, pre-post test in Pakistan given increased sensitivity of the context. As part of this evaluation, 1,980 adolescent girls between the ages of 10-19 were surveyed across the three countries. Drawing from baseline data from these studies, we found that adolescent girls experience staggering levels of violence as half of all girls suffered from some form of abuse in the past year. More specifically, 32% reported physical violence and 37% reported emotional abuse. And over one in four girls – some as young as 13 years old - experienced sexual violence which can result in long term negative consequences for their health and wellbeing. At the end of the program, adolescent girls had stronger social networks, felt more positive about the future, and had better knowledge of where they could go to for help in the case of experiencing gender-based violence. Overall, caregiver-child relationships did improve as caregivers demonstrated more warmth and affection for their girl children. Despite these generally positive changes on the pathway to becoming safer from violence, there were no statistically significant impacts on reducing sexual violence in the past year. Limitations of the study included the overlap of recall period and program implementation, fidelity related to the first cycle of programming being evaluated, and sensitivity in reporting sexual violence. Findings demonstrate a substantive need for programming for adolescent girls as well as increased investment in comprehensive policies and program that address the root causes of gender-based violence in conflict settings.
I study the influence of women’s political empowerment on a state’s involvement in interstate conflict, 1930-2010. I examine whether women’s political and civic rights are associated with less conflict, and find that women’s civil society rights are associated with peacefulness. I also consider the strategies that women in repressive environments use to reduce risks associated with civil society participation. Previous research has shown that gender equitable states are less prone to conflict. I construct a time-series, cross-sectional data set to test the relationship between an aspect of gender equality, women’s political empowerment, and interstate conflict. I use the V-Dem Women’s Political Empowerment Index and militarized interstate dispute data to test the relationship between overall women’s political empowerment and four conflict measures (involvement, initiation, use of force, and war). I find no relationship between overall women’s political empowerment and various measures of state participation in interstate disputes. However, when controlling for the influence of women’s political participation and women’s civil liberties, I find that women’s civil society rights are associated with less conflict. States in which women can join and form civil society organizations, work as journalists, and freely discuss political issues are less likely to use force and engage in interstate war. Policymakers working to prevent interstate disputes should promote women’s civil society leadership training, sponsor fellowships for women journalists, and encourage women’s engagement in politics. However, policymakers should be attentive to the risks that may be associated with women’s civil society participation and peace advocacy. Low civil society environments are associated with heightened risks of violence for women advocates, including detention and sexual violence. In repressive environments, policymakers should consider strengthening regional peacemaking organizations and working with women’s groups to adopt culturally appropriate framing strategies. These strategies were successful for women peace activists in Guinea during a regional crisis from 1999 to 2002. Members of the Guinean chapter of the Mano River Women’s Peace Network, a regional peacebuilding organization, met with the president of Guinea and persuaded him to resolve disputes with the presidents of warring neighbors Liberia and Sierra Leone. In these actions and other advocacy efforts, Guinean women have presented themselves as apolitical mothers concerned for their children and country. These strategies enabled Guinean women activists to avoid imprisonment and government retaliation—common tactics the Guinean government employs to reduce dissent. Recent rapes of women protesters by soldiers and police (2009) and by political activists and security forces (2013, 2015) in Guinea demonstrate the risks of physical violence to women activists in environments of low civil society rights.
In October 2000, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace, and Security, which promotes women’s right to participate in security and peace processes. Further, in 2008, UNSCR 1820 emphasized the need to prevent conflict-related sexual violence. Many governments sought to comply with these Resolutions by adopting gendered security sector reforms. Recruiting and retaining more female security officers and transforming security sectors’ gendered cultures present a frontline defense against sexual violence committed during and after conflict. Predominantly male security sectors are more likely to enter into conflict, commit human rights abuses, including sexual violence, and inadequately address women’s and other marginalized groups’ security. Therefore, gendered security sector reform may increase security sector effectiveness and improve security for civilians.

However, a great degree of variation exists among countries in the number and character of their security sector gender reforms. Women’s representation in police and military forces ranges from less than one percent to around 35%. Further, only 38% of UN member states have adopted NAPs for UNSCR 1325. Finally, only one third of countries have public security sector gender recruitment quotas. This study examines two types of gendered security sector reform. Gender mainstreaming reforms seek to promote gender equality by increasing women's representation, decision-making power, comfort with, and influence in security institutions. Gender balancing reforms specifically seek to increase women's physical representation relative to men's representation. What domestic and international factors promote the adoption of these gendered security sector reforms? Further, how do gendered security sector reforms affect the characteristics of conflict and post-conflict peace?

To examine these questions, a unique cross-national dataset on gendered security sector reform and women’s representation in police and military forces between 1988 and 2016 was created to quantitatively compare the adoption and implementation of gendered security sector reforms and their effects across countries. Regarding adoption of these reforms, conflict and post-conflict countries are more likely to adopt both gender balancing and gender mainstreaming reforms. Further, post-conflict countries with multidimensional peacekeeping missions are more likely to adopt these reforms, and this effect is magnified by increased numbers of female peacekeepers. Additionally, across all countries, including non-conflict-affected countries, the presence of women’s NGOs and foreign aid promote gendered security sector reform.

Further, the results demonstrate that during and after conflict, the adoption of gendered security sector reforms and women’s presence in security forces decreases civilian victimization by the government and promotes peace in the post-conflict period. Government security forces that adopt gender balancing and gender mainstreaming reforms are less likely to commit conflict-related sexual violence. Further, gendered security sector reform decreases the likelihood and magnitude of one-sided violence against civilians by the government. Finally, women’s presence in state military forces after conflict decreases the likelihood of conflict resurgence. Thus, this research demonstrates that gendered security sector reforms and women’s representation in security significantly decreases civilian victimization and conflict-related sexual violence and improves post-conflict peace.
Title: Responding to Sexual Violence in Conflict and its Aftermath from Policy-Making to Practice: a case study from the Democratic Republic of Congo

When the data was released, we realized that there was a tremendous difference in SEA rates according to the mandate types. Thus, the first question was whether the UN missions were collecting the data differently or not. After investigation at the UN, we were informed that the data is collected in the same way across all missions. Therefore, it means that the difference is in empirical rates. The issue then becomes: why do missions with civilian protection mandates report bigger rates of SEA? In order to answer this question, we determined six different hypothesis which could explain, in whole or in part, this systematic difference in SEA rates, and we determined observable implications for each hypothesis.

1. **Capacity**: Missions with POC mandates report higher rates of SEA because they have better resources to do so and more personnel dedicated to the issue, whereas interposition missions lack dedicated staff and thus would produce fewer SEA reports.

2. **Context**: Missions with POC mandate are operating in conflict situations and thus integrate with very vulnerable population. Contexts of deprivation, desperation and insecurity create conditions for a “survival sex economy” and safe havens for peacekeepers to engage in sexual abuse. Moreover, because of the POC mandate, the peacekeepers would be more integrated with the population, notably in IDP camps.

3. **Personnel differences**: the striking difference in rates according to types of missions could be explained by a systematic variation in the national contingents staffing missions with civilian protection mandates that report higher levels of sexual abuse and exploitation and missions with classic interposition mandates and civilian protection mandates that report lower levels of sexual abuse and exploitation.

4. **Baseline levels of rape**: Sexual abuse and exploitation may simply be reported more frequently in some cases than others. Missions that take place in countries with higher levels of reported rape overall could be more likely to receive higher levels of sexual abuse and exploitation reports.

5. **Mission size**: Larger missions have more personnel, and therefore more personnel who might be likely to engage in SEA. Larger missions thus should report higher rates of sexual abuse and exploitation. This means we should also see variation within each type of mission.

6. **Mission leadership**: Force commanders matter. Punishment and repercussion could produce fewer actual instances of sexual abuse and exploitation within missions, or punishment and repercussion could produce higher levels of reported sexual abuse and exploitation because victims feel more comfortable coming forward. Impunity could produce fewer reports of sexual abuse and exploitation because people do not feel comfortable coming forward, or impunity could produce an actually higher rate of sexual abuse and exploitation that is being reflected in higher reported rates as well—the direction of this hypothesis is indeterminate.

At the moment, we drafted the observable implications for each hypothesis, and we determined the first data we needed to gather for each hypothesis.
The 40 most unstable countries in the world are home to roughly 40% of the globe’s population. There exists an understandable assumption that the worst effects of conflict result from violence-related deaths and are relatively restricted to “theaters of war.” However new lines of scholarship document the wide-ranging effects of political instability on a myriad of human outcomes, and on populations that may not seem directly involved in active hostilities. Violence may become normalized after war; people may turn to physical aggression in interactions with strangers, family and partners.

My current research looks at data from three conflict affected countries: Kenya, Liberia and the Ivory Coast. For each country, data on district-level conflict intensity were combined with individual-level data from the Demographic Health and Survey (DHS). A multi-level modeling approach was used to look at whether different levels of political violence within each country were associated with intimate partner violence against women years after the end of hostilities.

Despite the very different nature of political violence in each country, there was a significant relationship between political violence and post-conflict IPV in all three countries. In Kenya and Liberia, women living in a district with any versus no conflict fatalities were between 50% and 70% more likely to experience IPV (Kenya aOR 1.58, p<0.000; Liberia aOR 1.55, p<0.001). The relationship with any versus no fatalities was not significant in Ivory Coast. When levels of conflict were split into low, medium and high levels, Kenya and Ivory Coast had significantly higher levels of IPV in the high compared to low-conflict districts (Kenya aOR 2.50, p<0.001; Ivory Coast aOR 1.70, p<0.001). Women living in a highly conflict-affected district were between 70% and 250% more likely to then experience intimate partner violence years after conflict in Kenya and Ivory Coast.

Kenya provided a unique case study because DHS data was also available from 2003, before the onset of election violence in 2008. In Kenya, those districts that went on to experience political violence in 2008 had significantly higher levels of intimate partner violence years before the conflict broke out. Women living in districts that went on to experience political violence during the elections had 30% greater odds of experiencing IPV than their counterparts who lived in districts that remained peaceful during the elections (OR 1.36, p< 0.005). While an unadjusted association does not establish causality, it does suggest there may be links to levels of violence against women before conflict and the likelihood that violence will break out during war.

This work suggests that political violence may have a “ripple effect” on violence for years even after conflict officially ceases. While levels of public conflict-related violence may subside after formal peace is declared, violence within the home may increase and persist at higher levels for years. Results from Kenya also suggest an association between levels of violence against women in home pre-conflict, and a district’s propensity to experience fatal violence during political unrest. These findings emphasize the critical but often invisible links between IPV and wider political violence. It is possible that higher rates of post-conflict violence are an unrecognized problem that impedes recovery. By acknowledging and addressing these problems, communities can more effectively rebuild.
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Political Violence Targeting Women: How Women’s Political Participation Is Being Challenged

While there is still a long way to go, every day women are becoming more involved within the political sphere across the world. However, this step towards increased women’s inclusion is not without opposition. As women’s political participation increases, so does political violence that targets women, often with impunity. The introduction of gender quotas – which earmark a proportion of elected seats for women – in countries across the world has played a role in this shift. While such quotas may guarantee positions to women, increasing representation nominally, they don’t affect how women who pursue them are treated. Women advocating policies other than the status quo may be targeted and therefore discouraged from political participation, especially in environments of impunity. This means that positions may often be filled only by women who are willing to support the status quo – which can have the effect of hindering true political inclusion of women.

A number of datasets exist capturing political violence at large, but none of these cross-country, time-unbound datasets account for the targeting of women specifically. And though there has been significant research on gender-based violence (GBV) within developing states, investigations typically concern the pervasiveness of GBV within the social sphere (i.e. domestic circumstances) or in crisis situations specifically (e.g. civil wars). To date, a comprehensive exploration of GBV as political violence outside of domestic circumstances and wartime contexts, yet within the public political sphere is missing.

Political violence against women is a practice wherein women are targeted by political agents (e.g. police, military, militias, local authorities, customary authorities) in an effort to enforce a political order. The motives for this violence are to create a high-risk political space; to humiliate and oppress women; to prevent the effective participation of women within the political scene, especially in efforts to sustain women’s rights and empowerment; and to generally perpetuate an environment of high instability with violent consequences. And while sexual violence can be used as a terror tactic to cultivate an environment of fear, political violence against women is more systematic and widespread across a society and can include targeting tactics including but not limited to sexual violence.

This project seeks to recode the over 320,000 events in the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) across Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and the Middle East with a measure of political violence targeting women and will integrate this measure into real-time coding going forward, including in ACLED’s planned areas of expansion: the Americas, Europe, and Central and East Asia. This will be the first dataset to explore the impact of political violence on women and the gendered responses to political activism women face, which is not limited solely to civil war periods. ACLED plans partnerships with organizations working in this space (e.g. election violence monitoring groups) as well as local conflict observatories and women’s organizations to help in combatting the current underreporting of such violence.

Identifying when and where women may be most at risk of experiencing this type of violence, and how this may vary across countries and regions, is a crucial step toward fostering environments in which women can be active contributors to political processes. Being able to measure such patterns will support advocating for policies to hold those who target women accountable.
**Title: Political Empowerment to End Domestic and Societal Abuse of Women**

**Case Study: Kyrgyzstan**

Women’s political participation is crucial to building a stable democracy. Realizing that, many countries across the world have embraced this dynamic and become signatories to treaties promoting gender equality. The Kyrgyz Republic is no exception. However, only in 2016, the Kyrgyz Government officially linked local instability to persisting gender inequality. To assess the population’s sensitivity to equality, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Kyrgyz Government, commissioned a nation-wide knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) study of gender perceptions in Kyrgyz society. The outcomes illustrated more work is required of the Kyrgyz government and public to achieve peace.

Women in Kyrgyzstan avoid politics not because of their unwillingness to participate or lack of capacity, but mainly due to familial and societal expectations which demand that they adhere to traditional gender roles and concentrate on being “ideal” housewives instead (UNFPA, 2016). Although most women acknowledge being sexually, psychologically, and mentally abused in the home environment, they fear to disrupt the norms of their society and families. In order to "fit in", a woman must live up to the image of the ideal wife, daughter-in-law, and mother. To be “ideal”, she is to obey her husband and mother-in-law. Her inability to meet these expectations is assessed as incompetence for public service (UN Gender Theme Group, 2008). Kyrgyz women in public service is a part of the answer to ending domestic exploitation and advocating gender equality.

Culturally second to men, societal marginalization of women's rights to pursue desired careers impacts women's perceptions of self, making them feel insecure in an environment where men are preferred over women, and merit does not tend to play a large role. Thus, academics and leaders of public administration, who happen to be women, cannot compete equally with men with similar expertise and experience solely because of gender. Consequentially, women pursue careers which conform to Kyrgyzstan’s gender stereotypes (teachers, doctors, or secretaries) and are removed from decision-making which could positively affect their lives (National Statistics Committee, 2013). These women receive less pay than their male bosses, thus making women economically vulnerable as well. Such multifaceted expectations of women within and outside of their homes leaves little room for them to make independent choices in Kyrgyz society and increases their vulnerability to domestic violence. Although holding a public office could help women end abuse they normally face, for women, especially in politics, every "imperfection" may cost a career or opportunity to build a family. Accepting these circumstances, many women choose family and its hierarchy over potential roles as change-makers in democratic institutions.

To end violence and, therefore, stimulate the nation’s progress, local leaders should raise awareness about the incompatibility of gender inequality and peace and the need for women-political representatives in a stable democracy. State and international actors should promote gender-inclusive partnerships towards achieving shared goals of sustainable development. Families, inspired by these examples in Kyrgyzstan’s mainstream media, should acknowledge discrimination and take measures to eliminate it at home and in their communities.
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Title: Responding to Sexual Violence in Conflict and its Aftermath from Policy-Making to Practice: a case study from the Democratic Republic of Congo

Responding to sexual violence in conflict has become an established priority at the highest echelons of the international community. Since 2008, the United Nations Security Council has adopted five resolutions specifically addressing the issue as part of its wider framework on Women, Peace and Security. While sexual violence in conflict is far from unique the region, eastern DRC has long been a central focus of these efforts.

Against the backdrop of the UN Security Council agenda on women, peace and security (WPS) and through the case study of the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), this dissertation critically examines international policy-making relative to sexual violence in conflict and their application in practice. Drawing on extensive research conducted at the UN Headquarters in New York and in the eastern provinces of DRC between 2013-2017, this thesis explores how women and men, and to a lesser extent boys and girls, are represented, included, and excluded within different components of the sexual violence response architecture, and with what implications. Some nuances notwithstanding, I argue that all too often Congolese women remained confined within the broad and undifferentiated category of ‘victim/survivor’, while Congolese men remain confined to that of ‘perpetrator’, or ‘potential perpetrator’. In doing so, I demonstrate that through policy and in practice, a limited understanding of the nature of the harm, its victims, and its perpetrators has been privileged at the expense of the complex and multiple dimensions of sexualized violence in conflict. This, until recently, included the strategic exclusion of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by peacekeepers from Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, and, thus, from the response mechanisms established in DRC.

Additionally, I have been working with the World Bank Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) on a mixed methods and large-scale evaluation of the International Rescue Committee’s intimate partner violence prevention program – Engaging Men in Accountable Practice (EMAP) – across 15 sites in the North and South Kivu provinces of DRC. The qualitative component of the research included a baseline phase and a second longitudinal phase. The aim of the baseline research was to ascertain which men volunteered to participate in the program, and why, as well as to gain a wider contextual understanding of the treatment sites. Through the longitudinal phase, research assistants were embedded as much as possible within six selected communities in which the program was being implemented. This enabled an in-depth understanding of the processes of behavioral change enacted by men, as well as of the kinds of gender norms and practices men were more amenable to change, within what limits, and why.
Title: Women’s Security after War: Protection and Punishment in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

Post-conflict interventions often seek to bring war criminals to justice, uncovering past transgressions while turning a blind eye to ongoing local crime. My research brings local security and post-conflict justice into the purview by showing how armed conflict shapes social sanctioning of violence against women in its wake.

Local preferences for punishing violence against women are essential to women’s security, because they shape the willingness and ability of communities to punish perpetrators and can constrain top-down legal reforms. Opinions about punishing violence against women also reflect the broad, elusive forms of violence that women experience in their day-to-day lives. My research examines armed conflict’s effects on women’s security in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, an area where armed groups have been fighting the state and one another for more than twenty years. It is also an area where women have been subject to extremely high levels of rape and domestic abuse. I asked 960 people spread across 20 villages about their preferences for punishing rape and domestic violence, two harms often perpetrated against women across the globe. I found that men in communities that had been recently exposed to armed conflict preferred to punish rape more than men in unaffected communities. Men were less tolerant of rape after armed conflict, choosing to punish fellow villagers that perpetrated it. However, I found that war had the opposite effect on domestic abuse. In communities exposed to armed conflict, villagers were more tolerant of domestic violence, choosing not to punish fellow villagers that perpetrated it.

To explain these findings, I develop a theory of protective masculine norms, a perspective missing from the current focus on violent masculinities. Due to pervasive assumptions about gender roles, communities expect men to act as protectors in times of war. After conflict, men will want to act more protectively against community harms. Because they perceive rape as a threat to their communities, men will prefer to protect against rape and punish it more. But when a crime is widespread and considered a private matter, men will not respond in the same protective way. After conflict, communities will choose to bolster their local security by keeping perpetrators of domestic violence from punishment so that these men can contribute to community protection. Contrary to established theory and practice, this research shows that the effects of armed conflict on women’s security is not unidirectional. In Democratic Republic of Congo, war leads to a more conducive environment for domestic violence but a less conducive environment for rape. People do not think about rape and domestic violence in the same way. Addressing one form of violence against women will not necessarily trickle down to address the other. This research underscores a need to account for local preferences and norms in post-conflict advocacy. Left unaccounted for, these local dynamics may impede top-down legal reform. People continue to make tradeoffs in the name of protection even after armed violence ends. Empowering women must begin by enhancing local security and changing norms that sustain domestic abuse.
The International Criminal Court listed sexual gender-based violence in conflict setting as a war crime. While action has often been taken against perpetrators of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) in conflict settings, this has not done much to reduce the reported instances of sexual gender-based violence being used as a weapon of war. Sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) continued to occur in refugee settings where displaced women and girls are seeking refuge and trying to rebuild their lives. As such, women living in displacement continue to grapple with the challenge of sexual gender-based violence in refugee settings. Kenya is not in conflict, but it currently hosts a large number of displaced persons fleeing conflict in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region of Africa women and girls included. While prevention and response of sexual gender-based violence is a mandate of the host government, there are gaps in addressing sexual gender-based violence that affects displaced women. Perpetrators of SGBV in refugee settings include law enforcement officers, fellow refugees, host community members and intimate partners. The effects of SGBV among refugee women and girls goes beyond the psychological effects. Refugee women and girls must deal other effects including physical health effects, personal security, economic security and breakdown of crucial family structures that women and girls are dependent upon. This coupled with the effects of conflict, having to flee their countries, separation from family and trauma puts refugee women and girls in a perilous situation. Shrinking asylum space in Kenya, enactment of the encampment policy, insufficient legal frameworks in the protection of refugee women and girls, limited awareness of rights by displaced women and girls and lack of political will are just some of the obstacles in the prevention and response of sexual gender-based violence in refugee settings. Host countries including Kenya need to work together with International actors to implement reforms in both the justice and law enforcement as well as integrate refugee protection polices into the national policies so that they are not competing but complementing each other. Empowerment of refugee women and girls on their rights and economically is critical in ensuring that women and girls are not vulnerable to abuse and exploitation which further heightens the occurrence of sexual gender-based violence. International and local actors need to pay more attention to persons fleeing conflict situations and put in place measures that will lead to the prosecution of SGBV perpetrators not just in countries experiencing conflict but those who flee their countries. There is need for data to be collated for better and improved programming on prevention and response of sexual gender-based violence in refugee settings.
My research concerns the relationship between women, and civilians at large, with the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) in South Sudan’s past and current civil wars. Trained as a political scientist and a historian, my approach is inter-disciplinary. I wrote my dissertation on the history of women’s relationship with the SPLA during the second civil war in South Sudan (1983-2005). The articles I published since have explored various aspects of my research, including the making of a national history, the SPLA’s military history and predatory behaviors, and marital practices. My findings are based on two years and a half of field research in South Sudan (spanning from 2009 to 2016), where I worked for international aid agencies. I also conducted research in Uganda’s refugee camps in the summer of 2017. Since I joined Indiana University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Studies, I have been working on a book project, based on over 500 interviews I conducted mostly in South Sudan. This book focuses on explaining the roots of the current violence in South Sudan. It incorporates my earlier work and therefore has a strong gendered angle. It looks at predation, including sexual predation, and reflects on the long-term impacts of violence to understand the South Sudanese society and the fabric of military allegiance. This project illustrates my broader interest in the relationship between violence, predation, military allegiance and processes of social class and state formation. In the context of the current civil war, this book also delves into the magnitude and use of sexual violence. In addition to this book, I will also publish articles focusing on the military use of sexual violence in South Sudan in the current conflict, and on the role of women in perpetrating the current violence.
Cover photographs provided from the June 2015, August 2015 and June 2016 workshops.