

## **2019 International Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies** **June 23 – 30, 2019**

### **Violence, War and Trauma**

Prof. Marie Breen-Smyth

#### **Course Description**

This course will examine the classification of violence; its forms and motivations; governance and regulation of violence; and its physical, psychological and political effects and uses. It will address questions such as: whether all violence can be considered political; the changing social construction of violence; how a context of violence tends to bifurcate thinking and ways of knowing; how violence becomes enculturated; and whether it can be seen as a form of communication. It considers individual and collective state and non-state violent actors; normative and legal definitions and contexts of violence; and how violence is legitimized or de-legitimized. The effects of violence are considered in historical perspective, the effects of war on populations, the aftermath of political violence for combatants, and the changing understandings of the impact of violence on individuals.

#### **Course Structure:**

- Theoretical introduction to violence, its definition, causes, forms, prevalence, trends and contexts;
- An examination of violence in systems of subordination, namely race and ethnicity; gender and sexuality; and socio-economic inequality and class.
- Methods and politics of casualty counting
- Military training, learning to kill, veterans and former combatants
- Violence, the uses of suffering and the politics of victimhood
- The concept of trauma and the regulation of suffering

#### **Case studies may include:**

- Violence and its proponents: militarism
- Legitimizing and delegitimizing violence; the case of 'terrorism'
- All topics will be illustrated by practical examples drawn from research and experience in the US, UK, Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine, Pakistan and India, South and West Africa and any other societies contributed by students.

#### **Background readings**

This selected list of readings will help you prepare for the course and may be used as entry points to our week's discussions. You are encouraged to read (and listen) CRITICALLY be aware of political affiliations and possible biases, your own and those of others. You are encouraged to find your own further readings and bring these to class discussions.

## Some suggested general background readings:

1. Bernstein, R.J. 2013. Violence: Thinking without Bannisters. Polity
2. Butler, J. 2010. Frames of War. Verso.
3. Collins, R. 2008 Violence: A micro-sociological theory. Princeton.
4. Demmers, J. 2012. Theories of Violent Conflict: an introduction. Routledge.
5. Donnelly, P.D. and Ward, C.L. 2015. Oxford Textbook of Violence Prevention. Oxford University Press
6. Zizek, S. 2009. Violence. Profile.

## Online resources:

1. Histories of Violence website <http://www.historiesofviolence.com/#!special-series/c95v>
2. Political Violence at a Glance <http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>
3. Kurtz, L. R. (2008). Encyclopedia of violence, peace, & conflict. Amsterdam, Elsevier. <http://www.credoreference.com/book/estpeace>

## Relevant movies include:

1. Gandhi
2. Battle of Algiers
3. The Wind that Shakes the Barley
4. Michael Collins
5. Hannah Arendt
6. Edward Said: The Last Interview
7. Allende
8. Motorcycle Diaries 1 &2

## COURSE OUTLINE BY DAY

### DAY 1

#### Morning Session

10:00-11:00 **Group introduction & introduction to the course**

11:15-12:30 **Theoretical Frameworks: defining violence: Galtung and friends.**

#### Required readings

1. Galtung, J. (1969) Violence, Peace, and Peace Research Journal of Peace Research, Vol. 6, No. 3 (1969), pp. 167-191.
2. Wilkinson, R. (2004) Why is Violence More Common Where Inequality is Greater? *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 1036: 1–12 (2004).

## Afternoon Session

14:00-16:00 **Power, inequality, subordination and violence.**

### Required readings

1. Peter D. Donnelly and Catherine L. Ward (2014) Interpersonal violence: a global health priority, in *Oxford Textbook of Violence Prevention: Epidemiology, Evidence, and Policy* Peter D. Donnelly and Catherine L. Ward (2014) Oxford University Press.
2. Nancy Levit (2002) Theorizing the Connections Among Systems of Subordination. Available in PDF and at [http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKewj84Mmg7bKAhVHmx4KHYBBAjsQFggfMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fworks.bepress.com%2Fcgi%2Fviewcontent.cgi%3Farticle%3D1013%26context%3Dnancy\\_levit&usg=AFQjCNHwySRnITjsf0d2J\\_BbnXo1SEXpZg&bvm=bv.112064104,d.dmo](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKewj84Mmg7bKAhVHmx4KHYBBAjsQFggfMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fworks.bepress.com%2Fcgi%2Fviewcontent.cgi%3Farticle%3D1013%26context%3Dnancy_levit&usg=AFQjCNHwySRnITjsf0d2J_BbnXo1SEXpZg&bvm=bv.112064104,d.dmo)
3. Breen-Smyth, M. New Model Handout. Available in PDF.

Reflect on the following questions:

1. How can we draw a line around what constitutes violence?
2. How is violence related to its context?

### If you want to do more...

1. See the legendary Gloria Steinem: Gender domination "a root cause of violence" (Dec. 4, 2015) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxR0IoG6oKk>
2. See a rather long talk by Thomas Piketty on Wealth, Income and Inequality at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zytgTSh3oGw> or the cartoon version at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPr6MUZxhw>
3. Listen to this account of domination and subordination in relation to 'race'. By Queen Ifama Uchefuna at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXoHHS7376w>
4. YOU can link this to world politics and systems by watching accounts of imperialism at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckU8SUH8c2mWjme3DhLLfqw>

## DAY 2

### Morning Session

10:00-11:00

1. Written review of day 1: **Implications of Galtung's definition; inequality and divided societies?**
2. **Prospects for violence:** Is violence getting worse or better? Does the answer depend on who you are?

## Required preparation/ readings

1. Is Stephen Pinker ('Better Angels of Our Nature') right? See his Ted Talk at [https://www.ted.com/talks/stephen\\_pinker\\_on\\_the\\_myth\\_of\\_violence?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/stephen_pinker_on_the_myth_of_violence?language=en)
2. Then see John Gray's review of it at <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/mar/13/john-gray-steven-pinker-wrong-violence-war-declining>
3. **Then you can read this review:** Ryan, C. (2011) "Steven Pinker's Stinker on the Origins of War: Did Steven Pinker knowingly mislead his audience at TED?" At <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/sex-dawn/201103/steven-pinkers-stinker-the-origins-war>

## Further reading

- Pinker, S. (2012) *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined*. Penguin
- Tilly, C. (2003) *Varieties of Violence* in Tilly, C. *The Politics of Collective Violence*, Cambridge University Press.

## Afternoon Session

14:00-16:00 **Forms of collective violence**; politics, the Global War on Terror and the normalisation of war, and the military industrial complex.

## Background Readings:

1. Pilisuk, M. and Rountree, J.A. (2015) Chapter 3: 'The Hidden Structure of Violence' in Pilisuk, M. and Rountree, J.A. (2015) *The Hidden Structure of Violence* New York: Monthly Review Press. PDF available.
2. MacPhee, G. and Naimou, A. "What the World Looks Like" On Banality and Spectacle. *College Literature*, Volume 43, Number 1, Winter 2016, pp. 3-21 Available in PDF.

### If you want to do more, watch:

- Andrew Bacevich: "The New American Militarism" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoMnIfEG9zY>
- And a short film of women defining militarism at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAReSTjmCZE>

## DAY 3

### Morning Session

10:00-12:30

- Written review of day 2: **The role of various actors in the production of violence:** politics, voters, the arms industry, the military?
- **The institutionalization of violence**, military training and learning to kill.

### Required readings

1. Pilisuk, M. and Rountree, J.A. (2015) Chapter 2: 'Killing: War and The Minds of Men' in Pilisuk, M. and Rountree, J.A. (2015) *The Hidden Structure of Violence* New York: Monthly Review Press. PDF available.
2. Molloy, B. (2007). Why Can't Johnny Kill? The Psychology and Physiology of Interpersonal Combat. In B.P.C Molloy (ed) *The Cutting Edge: Studies in Ancient and Medieval Weaponry* combat-archaeology.org, Jan 1, 2007. PDF available.

### Afternoon Session

14:00-15:00

- **Gun cultures, aggrieved masculinity**
- **The role of gender and masculinity**

### Required readings

1. Cynthia Cockburn (2010) Gender Relations as Causal in Militarization and War, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 12:2, 139-157 PDF available
2. Myrntinen, Henri (2003) "Disarming masculinities" Women, men, peace and security. *Disarmament forum* PDF available.
3. Kalish, R. and Kimmel, M. Suicide by mass murder: Masculinity, aggrieved entitlement, and rampage school shootings. *Health Sociology Review* (2010) 19(4): 451–464

### Recommended reading

1. Brandzel, A. and Desai J. Race, (2008) Violence, and Terror: The Cultural Defensibility of Heteromale Citizenship in the Virginia Tech Massacre and the Don Imus Affair *Journal of Asian American Studies*, Volume 11, Number 1, February 2008, pp. 61-85. PDF available.
2. Grossman, D (1996) 'The Full Spectrum of Atrocity.' pp 195-212 in *On Killing: the psychological cost of learning to killing war and society*. Back Bay. PDF available.

If you want to do more:

1. Watch a short introduction to gun violence in the US at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jrimyxwwm\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jrimyxwwm_U)
2. Watch Philip J. Cook, PhD, ITT/Sanford Professor of Public Policy, and Professor of Economics and Sociology, at Duke University on 'The Economic and Social Costs of Gun Violence' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iisq5cFUGik>
3. Watch Jill Messing, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Arizona State University on 'Guns and Intimate Partner Violence: What the Research Tells Us' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WREAZTPDdE4>

## DAY 4

### Morning Session

10:00-11:15

- Written review of day 3: Thoughts on military recruitment, training, gender and gun cultures.
- **The human costs of war:** the nature and distribution of suffering
- **The concept of 'trauma'** and models of assessing impacts

### Required Readings

1. Antonio Ugalde and Patricia L Richards, University of Texas, Austin, USA  
Anthony Zwi, Health Consequences of War and Political Violence London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK. PDF available
2. Summerfield, D. (2003) War, Exile, Moral Knowledge and the Limits of Psychiatric Understanding: A Clinical Case Study of a Bosnian Refugee in London *International Journal of Social Psychiatry* 2003; 49; 264 PDF available
3. Summerfield, D. (2004) Cross cultural perspectives on the medicalisation of human suffering. in: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Issues and Controversies. Ed G.Rosen. John Wiley 2004. PDF available
4. Bracken, P. Giller, J.E. and Summerfield, D. Rethinking Mental Health Work with Survivors of Wartime Violence and Refugees *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 10. No. 4 1997. PDF available

### Afternoon Session

14:00-15:00

- **The concept of 'victim' and the politics of victimhood.**

## Required readings:

1. Noor M, Shnabel N, Halabi S, Nadler A. (2012) When Suffering Begets Suffering: The Psychology of Competitive Victimhood Between Adversarial Groups in Violent Conflicts *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 6(4) 351– 374 PDF available
2. Smyth, M. (2001) The 'discovery' and treatment of trauma in Northern Ireland. PDF available.
3. Breen-Smyth M. (2018) The Uses of Suffering: Victims as Moral Beacons or Icons of Grievance. In: Druliolle V., Brett R. (eds) *The Politics of Victimhood in Post-conflict Societies*. St Antony's Series. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. PDF Available.

If you want to do more...

- Watch a lecture by Derek Summerfield where he talks about the medicalization of distress and the rise of psychological therapies which aggrandize the Western agencies, what he calls "Psychiatric imperialism exported to disaster and conflict affected countries with the assumption that people are suffering from PTSD and trauma". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHsB4CLuhuM>
- Watch a film about the human impact of the Northern Ireland conflict at <https://vimeo.com/60470297>
- Watch a film about injury in the same conflict at <https://vimeo.com/60263045>

## DAY 5

### Morning Session

10:00 – 12:30

- Written review of day 4: Thoughts on trauma and victimhood.
- **Terrorism, legitimization and de-legitimation of violence.**

### Required readings

1. Oliver P. Richmond & Jason Franks (2009) The impact of orthodox terrorism discourses on the liberal peace: internalisation, resistance, or hybridisation?, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, 2:2, 201-218 PDF available.
2. Marie Breen Smyth, Jeroen Gunning, Richard Jackson, George Kassimeris & Piers Robinson (2008) Critical Terrorism Studies—an introduction, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, 1:1, 1-4 PDF available
3. Jeroen Gunning & Richard Jackson (2011) What's so 'religious' about 'religious terrorism'?, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, 4:3, 369-388 PDF available

## Afternoon Session

14:00 – 16:00

- **War resisters, refusniks and conscientious objection.**

## Required readings

1. Ovadia Ezra (2006) Consistency and Selective Disobedience, *Peace Review*, 18:2, 183-188 PDF Available
2. Doğu Durgun (2019) Beyond silence and voice: gender, sexuality and antimilitarism in Turkey and Israel, *Citizenship Studies*, 23:2, 139-155 PDF Available.
3. Andreas Yiannaros (2018) Refusing to Kill: Selective Conscientious Objection and Professional Military Duties, *Journal of Military Ethics*, 17:2-3, 108-121 PDF Available.
4. Insook Kwon (2013) Gender, Feminism and Masculinity in Anti-Militarism, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 15:2, 213-233 PDF available.

## DAY 6

### Morning Session

10:00-12:30

- Written review of day 5: Thoughts on trauma and victimhood & refusniks.
- Pacifism

### Reading:

1. Kevin Klement (1999) Is pacifism irrational?, *Peace Review*, 11:1, 165-170.
2. Butler, J. (2009) *Frames of War*. New York. Chapter 5 The claim of non-violence.
3. Watch: Pacifism: watch Nonviolence and Peace Movements: Crash Course World History 228.
4. You might also try to watch the C S Lewis doodle on pacifism at <https://youtu.be/k2xY2k26HFo>

### Afternoon Session

- 14:00-15:00 Plenary session and final discussions
- 15:15-16:00 Summer School Closing ceremony