

SVAC

International Research Group »Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict«
www.warandgender.net

Sexual violence accompanies warfare at almost every point in history. These acts of sexual violence perpetrated in armed conflict across many regions pose urgent questions about the relationships between sexuality, violence, and gender. Much work on sexual violence in armed conflict has been published during the past years, yet we still know remarkably little about it:

- ▶ How can the pervasive occurrence of rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict be understood?
- ▶ To what extent is sexual violence in armed conflict informed by gendered scripts at work in pre-war societies?
- ▶ How is this form of violence tied to other forms of wartime violence?
- ▶ Which meanings does sexual violence acquire in the field of military strategy and tactics?
- ▶ How do different actors—perpetrators, victims, bystanders, confidants—talk or remain (eloquently) silent about sexual violence?
- ▶ How do post-war societies deal with sexual violence, the victims and the perpetrators?

SVAC is an International Research Group of interdisciplinary scholars and NGO-experts founded in October 2010. The group brings together empirical and theoretical studies focusing on sexual violence in different theatres of armed conflict. It compares source material and promotes the systematic development of research questions and aims.

The public event opens the internal SVAC workshop

CULTURES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ARMED CONFLICT

3-5 April 2014, Birkbeck, University of London

SVAC regularly organizes workshops on specific subjects relating to sexual violence in armed conflicts, where members and guests examine key methodological and theoretical issues and compare empirical case studies. These workshops bring together scholars and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines and expertise in different theatres of conflict. The workshops aim to develop collaborative comparative research questions and frameworks.

Previous workshops have explored:

- ▶ Constellations and Dynamics of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict
- ▶ Perpetrators—Reactions and Responses
- ▶ The Perpetration of Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones: Sources of Explanation
- ▶ The Pervasiveness of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict

For further information: <http://www.warandgender.net/>

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ARMED CONFLICTS: FILM, TESTIMONY, AND THE VIETNAM WAR

3 April 2014 18:00-20:00,
Birkbeck Cinema, 43 Gordon Sq., London

Joanna Bourke in conversation with Kendrick Oliver about filmic testimony on rape during the war in Vietnam, with reflections on sexual violence in current conflicts. With an introduction by Kirsten Campbell.

Joanna Bourke is Professor of History at Birkbeck, University of London. She is the author of (among other books) *Rape: A History from the 1860s to the Present* (London: Virago, 2007).

Kendrick Oliver is Professor of American History at the University of Southampton. He is the author of (among other books) *The My Lai Massacre in American History and Memory* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006).

Kirsten Campbell, SVAC, is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London, and Principal Investigator of the ERC funded project »The Gender of Justice«.

The event will be followed by a drinks reception.
It is sponsored by the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities.