

Summaries

Cordula Dittmer: Western Female Soldiers in Afghanistan – Positioning and Negotiating Military Gender Regimes. This article analyzes the positioning of German female soldiers in the mission in Afghanistan. Against the background of the feminist debate on counterinsurgency and gender in the US, German discourses surrounding the role of women in military and peace processes are explored. It is argued that traditional military gender roles – the ‘male warrior’ versus the ‘peaceful woman’ – are used to legitimize the Afghan mission as civilized and emancipatory and to stabilize traditional military masculinity. In the first section the author highlights the gendered implications of out-of-area-missions in general. In the second section the US-doctrine of counterinsurgency and its gendered implications are illustrated. In the third section, the German military discourse on female soldiers in Afghanistan is deconstructed and the practical implications of these policies for female soldiers are outlined.

Ruth Streicher: Gendered Practices of Counterinsurgency at Checkpoints in Southern Thailand. The author uses the example of checkpoints to discuss the gendered dynamics of counterinsurgency in southern Thailand. Conceptually, she argues for broadening the Foucauldian concept of ‘policing’ to include postcolonial and feminist readings of the nation-state. She thereby suggests that the productivity of counterinsurgency practices should be comprehended as demarcating the gendered boundaries of nation-state order, which also operates to differentiate the ‘civilised’ nation-state from ‘uncivilised’ insurgent violence. In her empirical discussion, she shows that soldiers, who are often themselves put in very vulnerable and ambiguous positions, use checkpoint controls to maintain gendered hierarchies that are historically grounded in the formation of the Thai nation-state vis-à-vis its ‘Malay-Muslim’ provinces. In rationalising insurgent violence, soldiers thereby produce young Malay-Muslim men as ‘uncivilised’ and effeminised victims of indoctrination, drug abuse, and poverty – a construction that denies their political agency and legitimises the military mission as a ‘civilised’ endeavour. The author ends by proposing that a stronger focus on the politics of affect could be mobilised to further conceive of military masculinities beyond stereotypical ‘martial’ forms.

Silke Oldenburg: Love in Times of Humanitarian Intervention – Sex, Gender Relations, and Humanitarian Intervention in Goma, DR Congo. “In Goma there is no love – everything is about dollars” is a common saying amongst young men in Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. More than just referring to ‘love’, this statement illustrates the complex terrain of moralities and materialities in Goma and refers to dynamic gender relations in the context of protracted violent conflict and humanitarian intervention. This article’s contribution focuses on the under-researched interactions and social practices going on in the contact zone of peacekeeping missions and the local population. This

contact zone is conceptualised as a 'market of intervention' where sex becomes a commodity. The market of intervention influences economic opportunities, socio-political hierarchies, normative stereotypes, and the urban infrastructure, as well as shapes local imaginations of 'modernity' being characterised by western goods and lifestyle. Zooming into the social practice of transactional sex, the author analyses how the market of intervention might aggravate sexual exploitation, yet also opens up manifold opportunities and may enhance conceptions of the self at the same time. Young women engaged in transactional sex reflect on their obligations towards their family, strive for income, or try to fulfil desires. Men, too, identify the opportunities generated by the market of intervention, yet are often marginalised due to social, ethnic and gendered reasons. The unequal distribution of resources and asymmetric relations of exchange perpetuate patrimonial relations on the one hand, while on the other allow some actors (mostly educated young women) to perform their dream of a 'good life' – at least to a certain extent. Without downplaying the prevalent images of rape and sexual abuse, the article sheds light on often neglected yet very present heterogeneous experiences and social practices of and dealing with long-term humanitarian intervention.

Susanne Buckley-Zistel, Ulrike Krause & Lisa Loeper: Sexual and Gender-based Violence against Women in Conflict-related Refugee Camps. A Literature Overview. Although sexual and gender-based violence against women in conflicts is not a new phenomenon, most studies have focused on conflict zones and neglected post-conflict contexts. But what happens geographically outside of conflicts and after violent hostilities? Researchers argue that the end of conflict does not represent the end of violence, instead emphasising a continuum of violence. This article aims to discuss this continuum through a look at the state of research on sexual and gender-based violence in post-conflict contexts, in particular conflict-related refugee camps. In search of safety, most refugees flee conflicts by crossing international borders where they are often settled in camps. Refugee camps therefore comprise specific post-conflict environments which are known for restrictive structures and insecure living conditions, both which impact gender relations. Through a review and discussion of relevant literature, the article takes a gender sensitive perspective to the notion of refugees and the experiences of living in refugee camps. The authors highlight the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence against women in such camps, and draw upon gender studies theories, particularly the concept of hegemonic masculinity, as a means to explain this phenomenon. By linking peace and conflict research with forced migration and gender studies, the authors strive to contribute to scientific approaches which reflect on the continuity of violence against women in post-conflict contexts.