



Forschungsverbund
Militär, Krieg und Geschlecht/Diversität
Research Network Military, War and Gender/Diversity

Research Network on "Military, War and Gender/Diversity" founded

The war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022 with Russia's attack on Ukrainian territory, the recent conflict in the Middle East triggered by Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel, and many other military conflicts in the past and present demonstrate the importance of gender and diversity for our understanding of military conflicts. The international and interdisciplinary research on military and war by gender scholars emphasizes that the meanings, causes and consequences of military conflicts cannot be understood without taking the analytical category of "gender" into account. The same applies to the functioning and culture of armed forces and their forms of legal and illegal use of military violence. The latter also includes sexual and sexualized violence, which have been part of wars to varying degrees and in various forms since ancient times and still are today. But even in peacetime, sexual and sexualized violence have taken place in and by armed forces. Even today, NATO and the Bundeswehr, like most armed forces, including the troops of UN peacekeeping missions, must take action against inequality and sexual discrimination in their own ranks and try to create more understanding for gender/diversity.

Research into the topic of military, war and gender/diversity is therefore not only of academic relevance, but also of social and political importance. However, there are still large gaps in research, particularly in German-speaking countries, but also in the international historical, cultural, social and political sciences. Here the research network on military, war and gender/diversity, which was officially founded on March 11, 2024 in Potsdam during a kick-off workshop, wants to initiate a change. So far 30 experts from universities and non-university research institutions in eight countries (Germany, France, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and the USA) have joined the interdisciplinary alliance to date. The Bundeswehr Center for Military History and Social Sciences (*Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr*, ZMSBw) has also joined the research network as a cooperation partner.

Objectives and Central Question

The research network is intended to provide an academic space and institutional anchorage for the important research field of military, war and gender/diversity in Germany and Europe. The aim is to systematically promote the study of the relationship between gender/diversity, the military and violence as a research approach and subject through interdisciplinary, national and international cooperation. The research network will contribute to better networking and regular exchange between experts working in this field from various disciplines, systematically promote young researchers and develop joint research projects that address important research desiderata in this area.

The central question of the research network is what significance the military and war have had and still have as „producers of gender“ in the past and present, and vice versa, to what extent ideas of gender/diversity have shaped the military and practices of military violence in peace and war time and still do today. This question can only be meaningfully addressed in an interdisciplinary way, which is why historians work closely with social and cultural scientists

in the research network. The period to be considered is the 17th to 21st centuries. The regional framework will be global.

Resources of the Research Network

The research network's resources include a mailing list (mkgd@lists.unibw.de) and an MKGD website (<https://mkgd.hypotheses.org/>) as well as an online research colloquium, which will begin in the summer semester of 2024 and regularly comprise four events in the summer and three in the winter. The online colloquium will be linked to the University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich. There are also plans for annual thematic face-to-face workshops in conjunction with a writing workshop for doctoral students, which will take place with the support of the ZMSBw every January.

The topic of the MKGD online research colloquium in the summer semester 2024 is "Military, War and Gender/Diversity: The State of Research and Research Problems." The first lecture will take place on Monday, April 29, 2024 from 4-6 pm. Prof. em. Dr. Claudia Opitz-Belakhal (University of Basel), one of the pioneers of early modern women's and gender studies on military and war in German-speaking countries, will speak on the topic of "War and Gender in the Early Modern Period (ca. 1400-1800) - A Research Overview".

For the first thematic workshop, the topic "Gender and Violence in Colonial Wars, Colonial Rule and Anti-colonial Liberation Struggles" is planned. The workshop will take place on January 30/31, 2025 at the ZMSBw in Potsdam. The call for papers is available on the MKGD website.

If you are interested to be included in the MKGD mailing list please write to:
mkgd.forschungsverbund@gmail.com

More information on the MKGD research network you will find on ist website:
<https://mkgd.hypotheses.org/>

Speakers of the MKGD Research Network:

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