



Feminist Foreign Policy vs Militarisation

Panel discussion moderated by Professor Jacqui True, Monash University

Thursday 11 April 2024: 5pm for 5:30pm – 7pm AEST at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Nearly three decades after the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and 25 years since the adoption of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, various states have begun to enact feminist foreign policies (FFP) that seek to elevate gender equality across foreign policy domains. In September 2023, 20 countries convened as an FFP+ group at the UN General Assembly's 78th session to advocate for a gender equality and peace agenda through the FFP framework.



Yet at the same time as feminist agendas in global politics are advancing, we are witnessing a surge in defence spending and militarisation, partly triggered by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Feminist scholarship on international relations tend to regard increased defence spending with the perpetuation of patriarchal norms and masculinist approaches to conflict resolution that counteract the very substance of a feminist agenda to foreign policy.

This panel aims to scrutinise these developments and contradictions from a feminist peace perspective. It will critically discuss instances like Germany and Australia, where feminist-informed strategies were employed during a time of heightened militaristic sentiments. The discussion will also navigate the complexities of defending state borders from a feminist perspective during conflicts such as in Ukraine and Afghanistan, evaluating the impact of feminist foreign policy on peace promotion and the inherent challenges in defining peace within feminist praxis.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join this timely conversation.



Professor Jacqui True FASSA FAIIA (panel moderator) is Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEVAW) and Professor of International Relations at Monash University. She is a Global Fellow at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo, and Editor of the *European Journal of International Security*.

(Speaker bios overleaf)

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Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria



Dr Christine Agius is Associate Professor in Politics and IR at Swinburne University of Technology. Her research interests focus on aspects of critical security studies, which include Swedish security, bordering practices and gendered approaches to security and militarisation. She currently works with UK colleagues on projects related to feminist foreign policy and NATO, and will soon commence two funded research projects with Swedish colleagues on war preparedness and the militarisation of the Baltic Sea islands in the context of NATO expansion to include Sweden and Finland. Recent publications appear in *Review of International Studies*, *International Political Sociology*, and *Cooperation and Conflict*.



Dr Farkhondeh Akbari is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Monash University where she researches inclusive peace, diplomatic actors, feminist foreign policy and the women, peace, and security agenda. She has recently published research focusing on the Taliban's gender-apartheid regime in Afghanistan.



Hanna Manoilenko is a PhD Candidate at the School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts, the University of Melbourne, Australia. Her research interest concerns feminist mobilisation in Ukraine and feminist perspectives on security, peacebuilding, reconstruction and recovery.



Dr Patricia Salas Sanchez is the General Manager (Operations) at AIIA Victoria and an International Relations scholar. Her research focuses on the intersection of social and political theory, foreign policy, digital diplomacy and feminist politics.

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Victoria Scheyer is a PhD Researcher at Monash University, researching on antifeminism and the far-right in Germany. Her research interests are resistances to gender equality and backlashes to feminist politics, as well as the development of feminist foreign policies. Victoria was the co-president of the German section of the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom and advocates for feminist peace, security and foreign policy.



Dr Simone Wisotzki is Senior Researcher and Project Leader of the Department "International Security" at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (HSFK/PRIF). Since 2016 Simone Wisotzki has been serving as Co-Chair of the Expert Group "Arms Export" of the Joint Conference Church and Development (GKKE) and since 2018 as Co-Chair of the Board of the German Society for Peace Research. Her areas of expertise cover the issues of Micro-Disarmament, Security Sector Reform, Gender Aspects in Post-Conflict Societies, Arms Control Aspects in Humanitarian Law and Nuclear Weapons Policy in UK and France.

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