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# INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN WAR

Yana Hashamova  
Helena Goscilo

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26 - 27 October

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
The Ohio State University  
1501 Neil Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43201

Sponsored by The Center for Slavic and East European Studies, The Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Office of International Affairs, The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, The Center for Folklore Studies, The Department of Comparative Studies, The Department of Film Studies, the Center for the Study of Religions, The Department of Women's Studies, Women in Development, the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and the College of Humanities at The Ohio State University.



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## Objectives:

- (1) an international **conference** devoted to the role of women in modern war (i.e., WWII-2006); and
- (2) a **volume** selectively based on revised presentations at the conference.

The co-organizers and co-editors of the conference are Yana Hashamova, Professor of Slavic Studies, Film Studies, Women's Studies and Comparative Studies at The Ohio State University, and Helena Goscilo, Professor of Slavic at University of Pittsburgh.

Geographically, we focus on Central/Eastern Europe, the USSR/Russia, and the Balkans; historically, on WWII; the wars in Afghanistan (1979-1989) and secessionist Chechnya (1994-96, 1999-); and the Bosnia/Croatia/Serbia war (1992-95). We plan two relatively small conferences: the first one, to be held at The Ohio State University, will focus on more recent military conflicts (Afghanistan, Chechnya, and the Balkans), and the second, to be held at the University of Pittsburgh, will focus on the Second World War. Both conferences (envisioned as two parts of one) are respectively scheduled for the end of October and November.



## Importance, Impact, and Target Audience

The interdisciplinary conference on women and war, which engages political ideology, history, sociology, psychology, cultural studies, cinema, and literature, will ask (and attempt to answer) questions such as— what is the role of women in war or military conflicts beyond the well-studied victimization? Can the often contradictory expectations of women and their traditional roles be (re)thought and (re)constructed? What is the significance of the fact that two of the most conflict-wracked parts of the world in recent years, the Balkans and Central Asia, share the legacies of the Soviet system and what is the consequence of these legacies for women in times of war? And, more generally: what is the responsibility of the humanities and social sciences in developing a discourse on the subject of the mother, and through it, a reinterpretation of the position of the father in modern culture? As a way of revisiting the nature and origin of social bonds, this discourse makes possible a political response to new challenges: for instance, in the modern clash of religions and the ghettoizing of communities. In other words, one of the goals of the OSU conference is to tackle the function of women and mothers in the clash between Islam and Christianity in the Balkans, Chechnya, and Central Asia.

We will attempt to address the question of gender polarization and politicization during times of war, to re-think gender identities and positions in religious and military clashes, and to elaborate a discourse on the subject of motherhood and fatherhood in war will contribute to pursuit of knowledge that can unravel problems related to violent conflicts, identities, and security.

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## Registration Information

Registration for the Women in War Conference is free to all who wish to attend. We ask that you please sign in at the registration table in The Mershon Center on all of the days that you are attending.



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## Schedule

**October 26 (Friday) 3:30-9 pm**

**Opening Remarks - 3:30**

**Panel 1- The Yugoslav Wars and the Other - 4:00-6:00**

Chair/Discussant: Snjezana Buzov (Ohio State)  
Jennifer Erickson (University of Oregon),  
"Racism, Classism, Gender, and War: The Case of Romani Women in Bosnia-Herzegovina"

Amy Szabo (Ohio State), "The Silent War on Women: Ethnic Conflict and the Development of Sex Trafficking in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina"

Aleksandra Milicevic (University of North Florida), "Men and Women in the Wars in Former Yugoslavia"



**Screening of *Grbavica (Esma's Secret)* (2006) - 6:00-7:30**

**Reception - 7:30-9:00**

**October 27 (Saturday) - 9:00-6:00**

**Panel 2 - Women Writers and the Yugoslav Wars - 9:00-10:30**

Chair/Discussant: Angela Brintlinger (Ohio State)

Ajla Demiragic (University of Sarajevo), "*(Out)Living the War*: Literary Representation of War in Contemporary Fiction by Women Writers from Bosnia and Herzegovina"

Jessica Wienhold (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), "Engendering Defamiliarization: Dubravka Ugresic's 'point of pain' in *The Museum of Unconditional Surrender*"

**Coffee Break - 10:30-10:45**

**Panel 3 - Memory and the Yugoslav Wars - 10:45-12:15**

Chair/Discussant: Dorothy Noyes (Ohio State)

Julie Mertus (American University), "Memories of Sisterhood United, Sisterhood Divided"

Ramajana Hidic Demirovic (Indiana University), "Dichotomy of Memory? Women Surviving Memories of the Genocide in Bosnia"

**Lunch - 12:15-1:30**

**Panel 4 - Film and the Yugoslav Wars - 1:30-3:00**

Chair/Discussant: Brian Baer (Kent State University)

Yana Hashamova (Ohio State), "War Rapes: Redefining Motherhood, Fatherhood, and Nationhood"

Olha Rudich (Ohio State), "Milcho Manchevski's *Before the Rain*: Zamira's Love and Religious and Ethnic Conflicts"

Discussant: Natasha Olshanskaya (Kenyon College)

**Panel 5 - Women's Representations and the War on Terror - 3:00-4:30**

Chair/Discussant: Ruby Tapia (Ohio State)

Wendy Hesford (Ohio State), "Staging Terror, Staging Gender"

Reshmi Mukherjee (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), "Studying the Gaze: Submission or Subversion?"

**Coffee Break - 4:30-4:45**

**Panel 6 - Women in Afghan and Chechen Conflicts - 4:45-6:45**

Chair/Discussant: Helena Goscilo (University of Pittsburgh)

Kirsten Rutsala (Oklahoma University), "Shifting Between Worlds: Gender Identity in the Second Chechen War"

Trina Mamoon (University of Alaska - Fairbanks), "Desperate and Dangerous: 'Black Widows' and the Chechen Conflict"

Serguei Oushakine (Princeton), "Private Traumas of Local Wars: On Mothers, Objects, and Relations"

**Reception - 7:00-9:00**

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## Hotel Information

Rooms have been set aside for presenters and attendees at the **University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center**, which offers free shuttles to campus.

Other area hotels include:

**The Holiday Inn On The Lane**

**The Blackwell**

**Fairfield Inn & Suites**



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## Campus Map

Campus maps will be available at the conference, and also may be **downloaded**.

## Campus Map

Parking is available at many locations throughout the campus. Please refer to the map for the closest parking garage located on 8th Avenue.



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