



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

CENTRE *for*
GENDER *in*
POLITICS

CO-DIRECTORS:

Dr. Maria Adriana Deiana & Dr. Jamie J. Hagen

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

MISSION

The Centre for Gender in Politics serves the growing community of feminist scholars and activists in international studies who apply a gendered lens to understand challenges in global politics. Research conducted at the centre investigates the centrality of gender, in intersection with other categories such as race, class, sexuality and ability, in shaping local, national and global dynamics. Inspired by Cynthia Enloe’s famous slogan “the personal is political, is international”, we argue that these intersections matter in shaping the political, from everyday experiences to political institutions, from cultural production to “high-level” strategies for global security.

The Centre considers how gender impacts politics in Northern Ireland, foreign policy, peace and security, reproductive justice, responding to climate change and the day to day lives of students at Queen’s University. **The Centre aims to promote interdisciplinary and cross-faculty dialogue at Queen’s.** It seeks to engage with policymakers and sustain connections with the wider community of feminist and LGBTQ+ activists and cultural organisations in Belfast and beyond.

The Centre therefore prioritizes initiatives that support collaborations between civil society, academics as well as students in the Queen’s University Belfast community. Given the growing interest in Gender and Politics and the long-standing history of feminist activism in Northern Ireland, the Centre offers a way to bring international scholars to the School Of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (HAPP).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr Clara Fisher
Dr Chenchen Zhang
Dr Selina O’Doherty
Dr Merav Amir
Dr Yassin Brunger

Professor Debbie Lisle
Dr Francine Rossone de Paula
Jess Simonds
Dr Giulia Carabelli

Dr Sarah Jankowitz
Dr Noirin McNamara
Kellie Turtle
Danielle Roberts
Alexa Moor



RESEARCH

Our Research at the Centre focuses on three main themes, **Gender in NI Politics, Feminist Peace and Security and Feminism(s) and the Politics of Crisis**. This year we are focusing primarily on the Feminist Peace and Security theme.

FEMINIST PEACE AND SECURITY

Our research focus on Feminist, Peace and Security asks the following questions: **Is Women, Peace and Security feminist? What does it mean to promote a feminist foreign policy? Feminist activism in sites of conflict**

Events on this theme include a co-sponsored talk by **Centre co-director Jamie Hagen** at the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University on February 12, an invited talk by **Chris Rossdale, University of Bristol** on 4 March.

We have scheduled a workshop on teaching terrorism with **Heike Schotten, University of Massachusetts Boston** in May. During this workshop we will explore practices used to teach terrorism in conversation with Schotten's 2019 book *Queer Terror*. We will also reflect on this workshop as part of our planned researching and teaching publication while pursuing the **HEA Fellowship**.

FUTURE RESEARCH

We plan to apply to GCRF 'Conflict Intersections' Global Partnership Development Awards: Prevention and Resilience at the Intersections between Conflict, Fragility and Wider Development Challenges and Risks. Possible collaborators on the project: **John Nagle, Queen's University Belfast. Yassin Brunger, Queen's University Belfast.**

RESEARCH PARTNERS

We have established links with several professional organizations including *British international Studies Association (BISA)*, *BISA South East Europe working group* *BISA Gendering IR working group*, *International Studies Association (ISA)*, *Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section (ISA)*, *LGBT Caucus at ISA*, *the European International Studies Association* and *the UACES Gendering EU studies working group*. We have also affiliations with the *PSAI standing Group on Gender and Politics* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics (IFJP)*.

As part of our networking activities, we have organized a **workshop in cooperation with the BISA South East Europe working group**. Centre co-director Maria-Adriana Deiana is currently editing a forthcoming **Special Issue on Gender and Politics in Island of Ireland with the PSAI Gender and Politics Specialist Group**.

Our plans to consolidate and expand our research partnership include working towards hosting the IFJP annual conference at Queen's, a key event for transnational feminist

research. We also envision having a presence at the forthcoming UACES conference to be held at Queen's in September 2020.

Beside our academic networks, a core component of our activities has been engaging with local civil society and grassroots organizations working on gender equality and social justice. These include Reclaim the Agenda, Here NI, Belfast Feminist Network, the 343, Alliance for Choice, the Women's Resource and Development Agency and Transgender NI.

These external partners have been central to the vision of the Centre to critically bring gender theory, research and practice together. Partnerships have sparked investigation into issues such as: **reproductive justice, feminist and LGBT+ activism, the gendered legacies of conflict and post-conflict transformation, gender-based violence, experiences of women in political office, intersectionality and transgender rights.** As we detail below, we envision strengthening and further developing our partnerships with feminist/LGBT+ activists, cultural organizations and other political stakeholders with a view of embedding the Centre's activities and research in the national and local political context, as well as in wider policy networks.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER

- ❑ **LAUNCH:** Gender Now in NI
- ❑ **FILM:** Dr Jolene Mairs Dyer, Ulster University, Unseen Women: Stories from Armagh Gaol

DECEMBER

- ❑ **ONLINE ENGAGEMENT:** Launch of Centre for Gender in Politics website, Twitter, Facebook

JANUARY

- ❑ **WORKSHOP:** Southeast Europe & the International: Critical Mappings & Future Directions Workshop **with BISA**

FEBRUARY

- **LECTURE:** Talk by Dr. Jamie J. Hagen 'Queering Collaborations: Connecting LGBTQ & WPS Actors' **Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University**

MARCH

- ❑ International Women's Day event: **Screening & Panel: Sex, Cyborgs & Rock and Roll w/ HEReNI**
- ❑ 'Introducing the Center' talk, **QUB International Relations and Political Science Series**
- ❑ **LECTURE: Matt Brim, College of Staten Island, CUNY** on his new book Poor Queer Studies
- ❑ **LECTURE: Chris Rosedale, University of Bristol,** on book Resisting Militarism

APRIL

- ❑ **TRAINING: Student-organized** event about transgender politics in NI with **Transgender NI**

MAY

- ❑ **RESEARCH WORKSHOP:** scholars, civil society actors reflect on future Centre projects picking up on themes from launch regarding gaps in civil service relating to gender in NI now
- ❑ **TEACHING WORKSHOP: 'Teaching Terrorism' workshop with Heike Schotten** (open to students and academics)

STUDENT FOCUSED

Engaging students in our activities is one of our key objectives. We have actively sought attendance and participation of our undergraduate, PGT and PGR students at HAPP and across the faculty at our events. **Students have had to opportunity to be informed about important political developments in NI and to engage in critical debates within feminist activism and scholarship.**

Our events continue to be popular among the community of students interested in gender politics and activism, as well as among those studying topics closely related to our thematic areas of research, such as peace and security, conflict transformation and social justice.

We have linked a number of events to our teaching curricula giving students' the opportunity to read state-of-the-art research and to discuss current developments in the field with international experts in International Relations, Queer Theory and Gender politics more broadly.

We are currently supporting students in the organization of **student-led activities and events**, such as a forthcoming training with Transgender NI and a series of film screenings. As we develop our website, we envision regularly hosting students' blogs and opinion pieces.

We are committed to offer **mentoring and professional development** opportunities for PGT and PGR students. In March 2020 we will contribute to the HAPP's research seminar series with an introduction to the Centre's activities and an academic job search workshop led by Dr Hagen. Dr Deiana has been previously involved in leading a career development session at the 'Gender, Social Justice and Innovation Conference' organised by the QUB Gender Network. We envision hosting similar sessions as part of our action plan in the next five years.



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

GENDER AT QUEENS

Following on from our successful launch event we have been granted an **ERSC Rapid Access Impact fund of £2,000** to develop a Gender at Queens theme. This will include a go-to website featuring ongoing work and gender experts which we will develop. This will also fund a workshop we will host in May to respond to some of the issues raised at the conversation following our launch event in November 2019.

ONLINE PRESENCE

- A **Twitter** feed (@CentreforGender) with 316 follows
- A **Facebook page** (/CentreforGenderinPolitics/) with 231 followers
- A **website** (/research-centres/centre-for-gender-in-politics/) where we share our research, events and plan to include a space for student engagement through our blog in the future.

FUNDING AT A GLANCE

Source	Amount	Planned events/Activities
Research fund	£1370.00	1.Launch event: Gender NOW In NI
		2. Teaching terrorism workshop with Heike Schotten (UMass Boston)
		3.Seminar with Dr Toni Haastrup (University of Stirling)
Research fund	£1500.00	1.Website and Logo design
Education fund	£1750.00	1.MasterClass with Dr Chris Rossdale (University of Bristol)
		2.Masterclass with Dr Matt Brim (City University of New York)
		3. (Student led) Training with Transgender NI
		4. (Student led) Workshop with MERJ
ESRC Impact acceleration	£2000.00	1.Policy workshop with NI civil society, QUB gender experts and political stakeholders
Total	£6620.00	