



Department of English Speaker Series

Co-hosted by the Centre for Africa Studies

Invitation | “Entrenching male privilege: Post-conflict ‘development strategies’ and the reifying of patriarchal paradigms”

Date: 10 February 2014
Time: 14:00 - 15:00
Place: Room 19, Johannes Brill
Building (ground floor)

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Abstract: In this talk, I will explore an emerging hypothesis that support for masculine privilege and patriarchal structures in war-torn African countries is not only entrenched through armed violence, but further reinforced in post-conflict development programming which both fails to support nurturing networks that are established by those who are socially and politically vulnerable, and does little to challenge the violently-reinforced systems of privilege through which a minority of men acquire and enforce their power. Focusing on Darfur, I will ask: can the unending, cyclical warfare that is produced by the unchecked paradigm of male heteronormative privilege, in fact, be successfully challenged? Or are the exclusionary and conflict-producing inter-personal economies reproduced precisely because they create and reward violence, reduce empathy, and form the basis for ‘radicalism’ and other individually and collectively destructive forms of political presence that have become globally dominant, in particular since the attacks on the USA in 2001? And if so, how can feminist anti-militarist analysis and activism reveal and challenge the problem and develop a counter-narrative to dominant discourses that justify military excess and renewed neo-colonial control?

Biography: Vanessa Farr

Vanessa Farr is an independent consultant and has been Lead Researcher on the WILPF MENA 1325 project since its inception. She holds a PhD from the School of Women’s Studies at York University, Toronto. She was the first global Gender and Conflict Advisor at UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention (2007-08) and then Social Development and Gender Advisor at UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP; 2008-2012). Prior to that, she was lead editor and senior gender advisor on the UN’s Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS), first published in 2006. She has published widely on issues related to gender and armed conflict, including on Palestinian women and the peace process and Libyan women and the revolution. She is the co-editor of two books: *Back to the Roots: Security Sector Reform and Development* (Münster: LIT, 2012) and *Sexed Pistols: The Gendered Impacts of Small Arms and Light Weapons* (UNU Press, 2009).

