

LEANDRA BIAS, DPHIL

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Sept 2025 – Nov 2030	Senior Researcher , Swiss National Science Foundation Ambizione Fellow (4d/w) – Department of European and Slavic Studies – UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG (UNIFR)
Oct 2022 – Aug 2025	Early then Advanced postdoctoral researcher (full time) – Institute of Political Science (IPW), UNIVERSITY OF BERN
Since Feb 2023	Affiliated Researcher – ZOiS Centre for East European and international studies, Berlin, Germany
May 2021 – Aug 2022	Senior Researcher (1d/w) – UNIVERSITY OF BASEL, swisspeace, associate institute
Sept – Dec 2022	Lecturer (hourly contract) – UNIVERSITY OF BASEL, Department of Political Science
Jan – Sept 2020	Visiting Researcher – UNIVERSITY OF BERN, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies
Feb – March 2019	Visiting Fellow – UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, Institute for Political Science, <i>Austrian Exchange Service Ernst Mach worldwide scholarship</i>
Dec 2018	Visiting Fellow – GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE, Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy, <i>Europaeum scholarship</i>
Sept – Dec 2018	Teaching Assistant – UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, Department of International Development, <i>MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy</i>
2016 – 2018	Tutor – UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, Lincoln and Worcester College, <i>undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics</i>
Oct – Nov 2017	Visiting Researcher – RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, Faculty of International Relations and Comparative Politics, St. Petersburg, Russia, <i>fieldwork</i>
Sept 2017	Visiting Researcher – UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE, Institute of Philosophy and Social Theory, <i>fieldwork</i>

NON-ACADEMIC POSITION

Feb 2020 – Aug 2022	Gender & Peacebuilding Advisor (4d/w) – swisspeace, Bern, Switzerland
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CAREER BREAK

Jan – June 2026	Maternity leave
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EDUCATION

2015 – 2020	DPhil in Politics , Department of Politics and International Relations – UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD <i>The (im)possibility of feminist critique in authoritarianism: Revisiting Western knowledge-transfer in Russia and Serbia</i>
2013 – 2015	MPhil in Russian and East European Studies , Oxford School of Global and Area Studies – UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD – with distinction
2009 – 2012	B.A. in International Relations – UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA , Major in Political Science

LANGUAGES

(Swiss)German: Mother tongue	French: C2	Italian: C1	Serbo-Croat: B2
Greek: Father tongue	English: C2	Russian: C1	Ukrainian: A2

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Bias, Leandra (2026). *Under Authoritarian Eyes: Feminist Solidarity and Resistance in Russia and Serbia*, Oxford University Press, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197801697.001.0001>, Open Access.

Peer-reviewed articles

Bias, Leandra (2026). “Traditional values in the international realm: Why we need more dialogue between anti-gender research and foreign policy analysis”, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 22(1), <https://doi.org/10.1093/fpa/oraf036> (OA).

Rothermel, Ann-Kathrin*, Nerino, Valentina*, Zhang, Milin, Bias, Leandra and Amacker, Michèle (2025). “A typology of gender-based needs”, *Frontiers in Political Science*, Vol. 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2025.1579061> (OA).

Bias, Leandra (2024). “Authoritarian Othering back and feminist subversion: Rethinking transnational feminism in Russia and Serbia”, *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 31(1), pp. 202-225, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxad023>.

Bias, Leandra (2019). “NGOisation and generational divide in Serbia's feminist movement”, *Women's International Studies Forum*, 77 (Nov–Dec), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2019.102292>.

Accepted

Rothermel, Ann-Kathrin*, Nerino, Valentina*, Bias, Leandra, Flaherty, Colm, Feo, Francesca, and Sipos, Alexandra (forthcoming 2026). “The mobilization potential of gender-based needs”, accepted with *Frontiers in Political Science* on 4 August 2026.

Under review

Bias, Leandra “Solidarity at War: The quest for the decolonial subject in Russia’s Feminist Anti-War Resistance”, revised & resubmitted with *International Affairs* on 4 August 2026.

Trade book

Bias, Leandra (forthcoming spring 2027) *Putin, Macht, Patriarchat: Wie Autoritarismus, Antifeminismus und Aggression zusammenhängen* [*Putin, Power, Patriarchy: How authoritarianism, antifeminism and aggression are connected*] [working title], Edition Suhrkamp (Contract signed, submission December 2026).

Dataset

Rothermel, Ann-Kathrin, Nerino, Valentina, Bias, Leandra & Amacker, Michèle (2024). Literature review of 406 academic articles from feminist, queer and masculinity studies (2008-2023 / Spain, Germany, Denmark, UK, Switzerland and Hungary). *Zenodo*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10630024>

DPhil dissertation

The (Im)Possibility of Feminist Critique in Authoritarianism – Revisiting Western Knowledge-Transfer in Russia and Serbia, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, deposited February 2021. ([link](#))

FUNDING, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Research funding

Competitive research funding secured: ~1,990'951€		1'903'919 CHF
2025 – 2030	<i>Russian and Ukrainian elites instrumentalizing gender for system legitimacy: Frames, policies and feminist civil society</i> , Principal Investigator , Swiss National Science Foundation Ambizione Grant – (success rate 18,8%)	940'500 CHF (~1,000,330€)
2023 – 2026	UNTWIST : Policy recommendations to regain “losers of feminism” as mainstream voters – Co-Principal Investigator for a Horizon Europe project – (success rate 9.1%)	608'081 CHF (~625,000€)
2021 – 2022	<i>Masculinities, Violence, and Peace</i> – Principal Investigator in 1-year applied research project funded by French Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs	65'738 CHF (~68,000€)
2020 – 2021	<i>Civil society perspectives on the Swiss National Action Plan for the Implementation of Women, Peace and Security</i> – Principal Investigator in 18-months applied research project, funded by Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	163'000 CHF (~167,500€)
2016 – 2018	Swiss National Science Foundation doc.mobility grant	81'000 CHF (~83,250€)
2013 – 2017	Berrow Foundation scholarship for MPhil and DPhil studies	45'600 CHF (~46,871€)

Grants and other subsidies (selection)

2026	Grant issued by Swiss National Science Foundation to employ research assistant after maternity leave (~39,133€)	36'526 CHF
2025	Grant issued by Swiss National Science Foundation for Open Access book publishing, 16'500 CHF	(~17'630€)
2025	Grant issued by the Swiss Association for Gender Studies for a workshop of our Research Network Gender & Political Science – 1'500 CHF	(~1'605€)
2025	Grant issued by the Bern University Research Foundation to employ research assistant – 28'400 CHF	(~29,800€)
2023 – 2024	Competitive Grant for female academic programme COMET at University of Bern, consisting of coaching, mentoring and training – 3'500 CHF	(~3,598€)
2023	Grant provided by University of Bern to foster networks between young academics – 3'611 CHF	(~3,712€)
2019	Departmental writing up award, University of Oxford – 2'600 CHF	(~2,673€)

Awards

2023	European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Joni Lovenduski PhD Prize in Gender & Politics. Link
2022	Young Scholar 2022 Award by Walter Benjamin Kolleg at University of Bern. Link
2021	Honorary Mention for best dissertation awarded by Swiss Association for Gender Studies. Link

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Postgraduate

Lecture <i>Gender, War and Peace</i> University of Fribourg 2026	
— 32h; student number and evaluation outstanding as still to take place	
Seminar <i>Qualitative Research Methods</i> University of Oxford, Department of International Development 2018	
— 25 students; 12h; Evaluation: 61.11% of found it “extremely helpful”, 27.78% “very helpful”	
Seminar <i>Authoritarianism in post-communist Europe</i> University of Basel, Department of Political Science 2021	
— 7 students; 32h; Evaluation: 1.3 with 1 = best, 6 = worst	
Seminar <i>The triangle of (de-)democratisation, political violence and resistance: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine</i> University of Bern, Institute of Political Science 2023	
— 20 students; 26h; Evaluation: 5.45/6	
Seminar <i>After armed escalation: Analysis of conflict narratives in Russia and Ukraine (2022-2023)</i> University of Bern, Institute of Political Science 2024	
— 15 students; 28h; Evaluation: 5.56/6	

Seminar *Before armed escalation: Analysis of conflict narratives in Russia and Ukraine (2014-2022)* | University of Bern, Institute of Political Science | 2023

— 15 students; 32h; Evaluation: 5.23/6

Seminar *The Politics of Eurovision* | University of Bern, Institute of Political Science | 2025

— 16 students; 26h; Evaluation: 5.58/6; uniquely designed for the occasion of Switzerland hosting Eurovision

Undergraduate

Tutorial in *International Security & Conflict* | University of Oxford, Lincoln College | 2018

— 2 students; 12h; Evaluation: N/A

Tutorials in *International Relations* | University of Oxford, Lincoln College | 2017

— 5 students; 12h; Evaluation: N/A

Tutorial in *Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union* | University of Oxford, Worcester College | 2016

— 1 student; 6h; Evaluation: N/A

Executive training

Masculinities, Marginalisation and Militarism | swisspeace, associated Institute of University of Basel | 2020 & 2021

— >20 international peacebuilding practitioners; entirely online; 24h; Evaluations: 4.7/5, 4.5/5

Gender, Conflict and Peacebuilding | swisspeace, associated Institute of University of Basel | 2022

— >20 international peacebuilding practitioners; entirely online; 24h; Evaluation: 4.6/5

Supervision

University of Bern: Scientific collaborators | 2023-2026

— Dr. Ann-Kathrin Rothermel – post-doctoral researcher on Horizon Europe project → now postdoc at Hamburg Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy

— Dr. Valentina Nerino – post-doctoral researcher on Horizon Europe project → now fellow at Istituto Svizzero in Rome

University of Bern: MA theses

— Nadia Qadire (in German) “Gender logics at war: how media construct and talk about gender identities in times of conflict”

— Emma Simonett (in English) “The diffusion of protest movements: feminist mobilizations from Latin America to Switzerland”

— Maida Čekić (in German) “Emotions and protest participation in non-established democracies: protests against femicides in BiH”

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Academic responsibilities

2026 **Mentor** for German Association for East European Studies

2025 **Mentor** in [Ukraine Research Network @ZOiS](#)

2022 – 2025 **Co-Founder and coordinator** of research network [Gender & Political Science](#) with over 30 members: convened two workshops and one writing retreat

Editorial responsibilities and peer reviews

2024 – 2025 **Guest editor** for [special issue](#) on “The mobilisation potential of gender-based needs” in OA journal *Frontiers in Political Science*

2022 **Project reviewer** for Deutsche Stiftung für Friedensforschung [German Foundation for Peace Research]

Ad hoc **Anonymous reviewer** for *Bloomsbury Press, Social Politics, International Feminist Journal of Politics, European Journal of International Relations, AtGender Postgraduate Prize*

MOST IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC TALKS

1. “Präventivschlag gegen ‘Perversion’: Angriff auf die Ukraine im Namen ‘traditioneller russischer Werte’” [“Pre-emptive Strike against ‘Perversion’: The Attack on Ukraine in the Name of ‘Traditional Russian Values’”]. Presentation of a chapter from the forthcoming Suhrkamp book, research colloquium, **ZOiS – Centre for East European and International Studies**, Berlin, 2023.
2. “Decolonisation as a precondition for future Russo-Ukrainian feminist solidarity?” **British International Studies Association** 50th Anniversary Conference, Belfast, 2025.
3. “Transnational solidarity at war: A comparative analysis of feminist manifestos.” Swiss Political Science Association Annual Convention, Geneva, 2025.
4. “Traditional values in the service of Russian foreign policy.” **International Studies Association** Annual Convention, San Francisco, 2024.
5. “Feminist (de)mobilisation in the wake of authoritarian Russian aggression.” **European Consortium for Political Research** General Conference, Prague, 2023.
6. “Risky resonance: Transnational feminism in times of authoritarian ‘Othering back’.” Weaving the Transnational Anti-Gender Network Conference, **Centre on Social Movement Studies, Scuola Normale Superiore**, Florence, 2022.
7. “Russian feminists re-imagine epistemic community to subvert anti-Western official discourse.” British International Studies Association Annual Conference, London, 2019.
8. “No such thing as ‘false consciousness’: Serbian feminists’ rejection of post-colonial subjectivity.” British International Studies Association Annual Conference, Bath, 2018.
9. “Is it all about anger and self-exclusion? The Serbian feminist movement through the eyes of young feminist (in)activists.” **British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies Annual Conference**, Cambridge, 2018.
10. “Russian feminists’ risky contestation of sistrarchy and zapadnitsi.” Workshop of the **BISA Working Group on Interpretivism** in International Relations, St Petersburg, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025 (12h)	Module 4 of CAS in Natural Language Processing, Transformers , Data Science Lab, University of Bern
2025 (3 days)	Introduction to Data Science with Python, Data Science Lab, University of Bern
2014 (24h)	Mental Health Peer Support training with University of Oxford’s Counselling service; Acted for two full terms as mental health peer supporter in Lincoln College, incl. regular one-hour supervision sessions at the Counselling service

POLICY IMPACT & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Policy engagement: Adviser in 6 expert consultations and policy processes for governments and NGOs, including the Swiss Federal Commission on Women’s Questions, the French and Swiss Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well as Developmental Agencies, PAX for Peace, the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office; author or co-author of 7 policy reports.

25+ invited lectures, keynotes and panel discussions for ministries, diplomatic services, think tanks, universities and civil society organisations across Europe

30+ media appearances cross print, radio and television, including two national television debates

10+ opinion articles published in *Republik*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *swissinfo*, *dekoder* and *The Security Times*