

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Leandra Bias

University of Bern
Institute for Political Science

leandra.bias@unibe.ch

leandrabias.com

Academic Employment

Since Oct 2022	Postdoc and Co-PI of Swiss part of Horizon Europe UNTWIST project, Institute for Political Science, University of Bern
May 2021 – Aug 2022	Senior Researcher, swisspeace, Department of Political Science, <i>University of Basel</i>
Sept – Dec 2021	Lecturer, Department of Political Science, <i>University of Basel</i>
Jan – Sept 2020	Visiting Researcher, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, <i>University of Bern</i>
Feb – March 2019	Visiting Fellow, Institute for Political Science, <i>University of Vienna</i>
Dec 2018	Visiting Fellow, Albert Hirschman Centre of Democracy, <i>Geneva Graduate Institute</i>
Sept – Dec 2018	Teaching Assistant, Department of International Development, <i>University of Oxford</i>
Oct – Nov 2017	Visiting Researcher, Faculty of International Relations and Comparative Politics, <i>Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, St. Petersburg</i>
Sept 2017	Visiting Researcher, Institute of Philosophy and Social Theory, <i>University of Belgrade</i>
2016-2018	Tutor, various colleges, <i>University of Oxford</i>
Jan – June 2016	Research Assistant in Comparative Politics, Nuffield College, <i>University of Oxford</i>

Education

2015 – 2020	DPhil in Politics, University of Oxford Supervisors: Gwendolyn Sasse & Elizabeth Frazer Examiners: Catherine Baker & Nicolette Makovicky
2013 – 2015	MPhil (with Distinction) in Russian and East European Studies, University of Oxford
2009 – 2012	B.A. in International Relations (Major: Political Science), University of Geneva

Awards

- 2022 Young Scholar Award by Walter Benjamin Kolleg (1'500CHF) for science communication and interdisciplinary approach. [Link](#)
- 2021 Brigitte Schnegg Prize Honorary Mention for best dissertation (years 2019 and 2020) awarded by Swiss Association for Gender Studies. Jury: Janine Dahinden, Nathalie Amstutz, Lilian Fankhauser, Andrea Maihofer, Katharina Pelzelmayer, Doris Wastl-Walter. [Link](#)
- 2015 Lincoln College prize for receiving a distinction in MPhil thesis

International collaboration

Co-Principal Investigator for Swiss part of Horizon Europe Cluster 2 Project UNTWIST: Policy recommendations to regain feminist losers as mainstream voters submitted for call HORIZON-CL2-2021-DEMOCRACY-01: Feminism for a New Age of Democracy

- Secured >600'000CHF for two post-doc positions
- Appointed Lead in two Working Packages

Hub member of Hub on Global Experiences of Gender in an Age of Care Crises and Transformations, University of Oxford

- Financially supported by Social Sciences Division
- Involves 33 researchers and practitioners from around the world to develop a critical mass to respond adroitly to funding calls

Grants & Funding

- 2022 Horizon Europe Cluster 2 funding for 2 postdocs, 608'100CHF
- 2019 Departmental writing up award, University of Oxford, 2'600CHF
- 2019 Austrian Exchange Service (OEAD), Ernst Mach worldwide, 2'385CHF
- 2018 Europaeum Oxford-Geneva Bursary, 1'400CHF
- 2016 Swiss National Science Foundation, doc.mobility, 81'000CHF
- 2016 Bursary for method school, European Consortium for Political Research, 592CHF
- 2016 Vivian Green student assistant fund for Serbian language training, Lincoln College, 460CHF
- 2016 Graduate Student research fund for fieldwork, Lincoln College, 592CHF
- 2014 Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies for fieldwork, 1'655CHF
- 2013 The Berrow Foundation Scholarship, 45'600CHF

Publications

Peer-reviewed

"NGOisation and generational divide in Serbia's feminist movement", *Women's International Studies Forum*, Volume 77, October, 2019. ([link](#))

Monograph-based 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, published February 2021. ([link](#))

Work in progress

"Avoiding risky resonance with authoritarian Othering back: Shifting the power debate in transnational feminism", *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* (under peer-review).

Feminist critique, power and authoritarian anti-gender politics in Russia and Serbia, book manuscript, to be submitted to Gender and Politics Series of Cambridge University Press.

Policy reports

Leandra Bias, Yasmine Janah, "Scoping Study: Masculinities, Violence, and Peace", *swisspeace*, subsidised by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, November 2022. ([link](#))

Leandra Bias, Ekaterina Filep, Andrea Grossenbacher, "Synthesis Note - Gender and Rising Authoritarianism", *swisspeace*, mandated by Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, May 2022. ([link](#))

Leandra Bias, Ekaterina Filep*, Andrea Grossenbacher, "Topic Paper - Gender and Rising Authoritarianism: Implications for Women's Political Empowerment and Participation", *swisspeace*, mandated by Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, March 2022. ([link](#))

Leandra Bias*, Izabel Barros, Andrea Filippi, Natalina Haller, Joana Salvadé, "No Care, No Peace! Contributions from civil society on Switzerland's implementation of the UN Women, Peace and Security Agenda", advocacy report out of NAP 1325 project of KOFF - Swiss Plattform for peacebuilding, cfd - the feminist peace organization and PeaceWomen across the Globe, September 2021. ([link](#))

Leandra Bias, Sibel Gürler, "Scoping Study 'A strategy for women participation in peace processes in Nineveh'", mandated by NGO ElBarlament, July 2020. ([link](#))

Leandra Bias, Regula Bühlmann, Regula Kolar, "Agenda 2030 und Gender [Agenda 2030 and gender]", *Plattform Agenda 2030*, June 2020. ([link](#))

Blog posts

"The Fight Against Domestic Violence in Belarus in Times of Protest", *Spotlight*, ZOiS Centre for international and East European Studies, 2. June 2021. ([link](#))

“Rückwärtsgewandt nach vorne! Der Angriff auf die Istanbul-Konvention” [Going forward facing backwards! The attack on the Istanbul Convention], *décodage*, SAGW Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, 20. May 2021. ([link](#))

Podcasts

Männlichkeiten in Osteuropa, *Roundtable Osteuropa*, ZOiS – Centre for international and East European Studies, 28. June 2022. ([link](#))

Invited Talks

Eine feministische Analyse als Antwort auf autoritäre Aggression [A feminist analysis as a response to authoritarian aggression], *Karl*a die Grosse*, 20. January 2023.

Feministische Aussenpolitik auch für die Schweiz? - Ein Sondierungsgespräch [Feminist Foreign Policy also for Switzerland? – an exploratory discussion], *Cercle des Donatrices, alliance f*, 8. December 2022.

Lecture on feminist foreign policy, *Frauenfriedensrat*, 16. November 2022.

Feminist salon Basel talk on militarism and disarmament, *Kaserne Basel*, 25. October 2022.

Lecture on anti-feminist backlash in Eastern Europe, *feminist faculty of Switzerland*, 26. Aug 2022.

Frieden in Europa: Welche Rolle spielt die Schweiz?, *Ilanzer Sommer*, 8. Aug 2022.

Podium discussion on the war in Ukraine, Kosmopolitics organized by WOZ – die Wochenzeitung, *Kosmos*, 7. March 2022.

Lecture on feminist peacebuilding in “Clinic Gender and Human Rights”, Master in Social Sciences, *University of Lausanne*, invited by Prof. Eléonore Lépinard, 8. Dec 2021.

Thesis presentation, *feminist faculty of Switzerland*, 28. April 2021.

Keynote on 50 years women suffrage, *University of Comenius*, invited by the Swiss Embassy and Institut Français in Slovakia, 3. March 2021.

Thesis presentation, *Swiss Friends of Oxford University Association*, 17. February 2021.

“Why is the study of gender important in academia today?”, Lincoln College, *University of Oxford*, 28. January 2021.

“Feminist Critique-Ability in Authoritarian Times”, Thesis presentation, Gender Centre, *Geneva Graduate Institute*, 12. November 2020.

Teaching Experience

Postgraduate

Autumn 2021 MA Seminar “Authoritarianism in post-communist Europe”, Department of Political Science, University of Basel

Autumn 2018 Research seminar in Qualitative Methods (MA-level), Department of International Development, University of Oxford

Undergraduate

- Autumn 2018 Tutor in International Security & Conflict, various colleges, BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), University of Oxford
- Spring 2017 Tutor in International Relations, Lincoln College, University of Oxford
- Spring 2016 Tutor in Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union, Worcester College, University of Oxford

Further Education

- Since 2020 Lead Faculty in Masculinities, Marginalisation and Militarism course (6 days) for 20+ peacebuilding practitioners, swisspeace
- Since 2021 Lead Faculty in Gender, Conflict and Peacebuilding course (6 days) for 20+ peacebuilding practitioners, swisspeace

Service to the Profession

Coordination experience

Co-founded Working Group “Gender and Political Science” within Swiss Association of Gender Studies (with Dr. Elizabeth Mesok), workshop to be held in autumn 2022
Convenor of academic lunch debate, “Gendered violence against civil society actors in times of conflict”, invited Dr. Anne-Kathrin Kreft to swisspeace, 23. March 2022.

Organization of panels

Co-convenor of the panel “Wieder Krieg in Europe: Die Ukraine und den Balkan zusammendenken” [Again a war in Europe? Thinking Ukraine and the Balkans together], swisspeace, 18. August 2022.
Co-convenor of the panel “How to be Critical in Critical Times?”, General Conference of the British International Studies Association (BISA), London, 12-14 June
Discussant on panel “Private Lives, Public Participation”, European Conference on Politics and Gender, 8 – 10 June, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Editor

Co-editor of swisspeace Working Papers, 2020-2022

Reviewer

Social Politics

Project reviewer

Deutsche Stiftung für Friedensforschung [German Foundation for Peace Research]

Supervision

2021 - Supervisor to student in Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Civilian Peacebuilding, swisspeace, University of Basel
2018 - Advisor for methodological choices for MSc theses in Global Governance and Diplomacy, Department of International Development, University of Oxford

Mental Health Support

2014 – 2015 - acted as a mental health peer supporter in Lincoln College, University of Oxford

Conference & Workshop Presentations

International Studies Association 2022

British International Studies Association (BISA) 2018, 2019

British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies, 2018

Swiss Political Science Association, 2018

European Conference on Politics and Gender, 2018

BISA Working Group on Interpretivism, workshop in St. Petersburg, 2017

BISA Working Group on South-Eastern Europe, workshop in Belgrade and in London, 2017

Science Communication

Initiated and conceptualized academic podcast “Conflicts of Interest” at swisspeace, (co-hosted with Dr. Dana Landau), produced four quarterly episodes with author of newly published monograph ([link](#))

Booth on gender, democracy and peacebuilding, public dialogue with scientists on gender in research, organised by Reatch, Science et Cité und akademien der wissenschaften schweiz, 27. Aug 2021, Bern ([link](#))

Outreach event to encourage Year 10 students to choose Politics for their A Levels and apply to Oxford, Twyford School, London, 2017

Media Outreach (selection)

Debate clubs

"Krieg, das grosse Verbrechen" [war the big atrocity], *SRF Club*, 22 March 2022 ([link](#))

"Ukraine – Ein neues Kapitel im Krieg [Ukraine – a new chapter in the war]", *SRF Club*, 26. April 2022 ([link](#))

Articles

“Die Internationale der Antifeministen [The Internationale of the anti-feminists]”, *Republik*, 6. June 2022 ([link](#))

“Hello. My name is Vladimir (he/him)”, *The Security Times*, February 2022 ([link](#))

“Russkaja”, *Republik*, 21 May 2021 ([link](#))

“Angriff auf die Gender-Forschung: Kreml geht gegen Feministinnen vor”, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 1 March 2021 ([link](#))

“Why the current anti-terror debate is flawed”, *swissinfo*, 24 November 2020 ([link](#))

“Tödliche Klischees [Deadly clichés]”, *Republik*, 13 August 2020 ([link](#))

Interviews

"Putins Kampf gegen Demokratie und gegen die Frau [Putin's war against democracy and against women]", *SRF Tagesgespräch*, 17. August 2022 ([link](#))

"Krieg in der Ukraine: Einordnung mit Leandra Bias [War in Ukraine, Leandra Bias analyses]", *SRF Impact*, 9. March 2022 ([link](#))

"Putin erstickt Widerrede mit Gewalt: 'Das ist nicht russisch, das ist patriarchalisch'[Putin represses any opposition with violence: 'that's not typically Russian, but patriarchal]", *Tagblatt*, 9. März 2022 ([link](#))

"Haben es Frauen im Ukraine-Krieg 'besser'? [Have it women 'better' in the war in Ukraine?]", *SRF 4 NewsPlus*, 8. March 2022 ([link](#))

"Welche Rolle spielen Frauen im Krieg in der Ukraine? [What role do women play in the war in Ukraine?]", *WDR 5 Morgenecho*, 8. March 2022 ([link](#))

"Warum Frauen wichtig sind für den Frieden [Why women are important for peace]", *Tages-Anzeiger*, 8. March 2022 ([link](#))

"Welche Rolle kommt ukrainischen Soldatinnen zu? [What role do Ukrainian female soldiers play?]", *SRF 4x4 Podcast*, 7. March 2022 ([link](#))

"Putin stellt die Ukraine als eine Art Frau dar [Putin frames Ukraine as a sort of woman]", *der Bund*, 7. March 2022 ([link](#))

"In Putins patriarchalem Weltbild müssen Untergeordnete folgen: von der Frau bis zur Ukraine [In Putin's patriarchal worldview all subordinates must follow: from women to Ukraine]", *elleXX*, 28. February 2022 ([link](#))

"Morgengast von 07:17 Uhr", *SRF1*, 28. February 2022 ([link](#))

"E' guerra (1./2)". *RSI Rete Uno* (from minute 44:20), 24. February 2022 ([link](#))

"Feministische Aussenpolitik: 'Wir stehen am Anfang' [Feminist Foreign Policy: 'We are at the beginning'", *die Wochenzeitung*, 13 January 2022 ([link](#))

"Wahlen in Russland [Elections in Russia]", *SRF 4 Tagesgespräch*, 16. September 2021 ([link](#))

"Belarus: 'Women protesters experience less violence than men'", *swissinfo*, 21 October 2020 ([link](#))

Quoted in media

"Ukraine-Krise: Die Schweiz wartet mit Sanktionen ab [Ukraine crisis: Switzerland waits with sanctions]", *swissinfo*, 23 February 2022 ([link](#))

"Will Switzerland be able to bring its ideals to the UN Security Council?", *swissinfo*, 21. February 2022 ([link](#))

"The Belarusian protests: feminized, but feminist?", *Conversationalist*, 6 November 2020 ([link](#))

"What is feminist foreign policy?", *swissinfo*, 17 September 2020 ([link](#))

Professional Training

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 2017 (1 week) | "Working with Concepts in the Social Sciences: from positive reconstruction to interpretive elucidation", ECPR Winter Methods School, University of Bamberg |
| 2016 (1 week) | "Introduction to Qualitative Interpretive Methods", ECPR Winter Methods School, University of Bamberg |

- 2016 (1 day) “Preparation for Learning and Teaching”, Department of Politics, University of Oxford
- 2014 (30 hours) Mental Health Support training with University of Oxford’s Counselling service

Other Professional Experience

- Feb 2021–Aug 2022 Gender Advisor, practice and research institute swisspeace
- Conceptualise and implement 2-year project on women’s participation in peace processes, including: leading four team members, gathering data among civil society organisations, developing recommendations and advocacy strategy
 - Acquire and conduct applied research projects for international organisations, foreign ministries and NGOs
- Dec 2013 – Aug 2014 Online-Editor, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, (parallel to studies)
- Summer 2012, 2013 Journalism internships, Glattaler; Tages-Anzeiger & NZZ
- Sept 2012 – Jan 2013 Graduate internship at the Swiss Embassy Bratislava, Slovakia

Memberships

British International Studies Association
Swiss Political Science Association
Swiss Association for Gender Studies

Software Skills

Coding for discourse analysis with MaxQDA and Nvivo

Language Skills

German & Greek: bilingual
English, French: C2
Italian, Russian: C1
Serbo-Croat: B2 (sufficient for research)