

LEANDRA BIAS, DPHIL

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Sept 2025 – Aug 2029	Swiss National Science Foundation Ambizione Grant Holder (100%) – Department of European and Slavic Studies – UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG
Oct 2024 – Sept 2025	Advanced postdoctoral researcher (100%) – Institute of Political Science (IPW), UNIVERSITY OF BERN
Since Feb 2023	Research Affiliate Cluster Societies between Stability and Change – ZOiS Centre for East European and international studies, Berlin, Germany
Oct 2022 – Sept 2024	Postdoctoral researcher (100%) – Institute of Political Science (IPW), UNIVERSITY OF BERN
May 2021 – Aug 2022	Senior Researcher (20%) – UNIVERSITY OF BASEL, swisspeace, associate institute
Sept – Dec 2022	Lecturer – 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** (80%) – swisspeace, Bern, Switzerland

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> Examiners: Catherine Baker & Nicolette Makovicky Co-Supervisors: Gwendolyn Sasse & Elizabeth Frazer
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

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

(De-)Democratisation | Feminist Theory and Security Studies | Transnational Feminism | Gender, Peace and Conflict | Social movements | Militarisation, political violence and civil contestation | Qualitative research methods | Post-communist Europe: Russia, Ukraine & Western Balkans

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Bias, Leandra (forthcoming 2025) *Under Authoritarian Eyes: Feminist Solidarity and Resistance in Russia and Serbia*, **Oxford University Press**.

Bias, Leandra (forthcoming 2025) *Putin, Macht, Patriarchat: eine feministische Analyse des Zusammenspiels zwischen Geschlechtergerechtigkeit und Aggression [Putin, Power, Patriarchy: a feminist analysis of how gender justice and military aggression are connected]* [working title], **Edition Suhrkamp** (Contract signed).

Peer-reviewed articles

Bias, Leandra (2024). “Authoritarian Othering back and feminist subversion: Rethinking transnational feminism in Russia and Serbia”, *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, Volume 31, Issue 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*, Volume 77, November–December, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2019.102292>.

Under review

Bias, Leandra “Traditional values in the international realm: Why foreign policy analysis should focus on anti-gender politics”, revised draft under review with *Foreign Policy Analysis*.

Dataset

Bias, Leandra, Rothermel, Ann-Kathrin, Nerino, Valentina, & 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>

In preparation

Bias, Leandra “Feminist solidarity at war: The quest for the decolonial subject in Russia”.

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

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|-----------|--|
| 2025-2029 | <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 – (acceptance 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 with Prof. Michèle Amacker for a three-year Horizon Europe Pillar II project in Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Societies – 608'081 CHF (~625,000€)
<i>Further details under research projects</i> |
| 2021-2022 | <i>Masculinities, Violence, and Peace – Principal Investigator</i> 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	18-months 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€)
Total acquired funding	1'903'919 CHF (~1,990'951€)

Grants and other subsidies

2025	Grant issued by the Berne University Research Foundation to employ a research assistant for 12 months – 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 for a 2-day paper workshop of the research network Gender & Political Science that I co-founded with Dr. Elizabeth Mesok – 3'611 CHF (~3,712€)
2023	Consultancy honorarium for expert input, <i>Feminist foreign policy towards Russia</i> , Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy & Friedrich Ebert Foundation – 566 €
2023	Consultancy honorarium for expert input, <i>Conference with Academics on 'Feminist perspectives on peace and security in Europe'</i> , European Peacebuilding Liaison Office & PAX for Peace – 464 €
2019	Departmental writing up award, University of Oxford – 2'600 CHF (~2,673€)
2019	Austrian Exchange Service (OEAD), Ernst Mach worldwide scholarship for 2-months stay at University of Vienna – 2'385 CHF (~2,452)
2018	Europaeum Oxford-Geneva Bursary for 3-weeks stay at Geneva Graduate Institute – 1'400 CHF (~1,439€)
2016	Bursary for <i>European Consortium for Political Research winter method school</i> – 592 CHF (~608€)
2016	Vivian Green student assistant fund provided by Lincoln College for 1-month Serbian language training in Belgrade – 460 CHF (~472€)
2016	Graduate Student research fund provided by Lincoln College for 2-months fieldwork in Serbia – 592 CHF (~605€)
2014	Grant provided by Centre for East European Language Based Area Studies for 1-month fieldwork in Russia – 1'655 CHF (~1,701€)

Awards

2023	European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Joni Lovenduski PhD Prize in Gender & Politics (500€). Jury: Petra Meier, Dorota Szelewa, Eva Anduiza, Orlanda Siow, Éva Fodor. Link
2022	Young Scholar 2022 Award by Walter Benjamin Kolleg at University of Bern (1'500CHF; ~1,541€) for interdisciplinary approach and science communication. Link
2021	Honorary Mention for best dissertation awarded by Swiss Association for Gender Studies . Jury: Janine Dahinden, Nathalie Amstutz, Lilian Fankhauser, Andrea Maihofer, Katharina Pelzelmayer, Doris Wastl-Walter. Link

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Postgraduate

2025	University of Bern , Institute of Political Science
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- Self-designed MA-seminar (in English): *The Politics of Eurovision* (6 ECTS; 26h), Evaluation: outstanding
 → mobilised critical and cultural studies approaches to talk i.a. about Eurovision as a performance of Europeanness (and the exclusions and reactions this creates); invited guest speakers: SRF (Swiss Public Broadcaster) executive director of Eurovision, Host City Basel representative; used primary sources (performances, costumes, lyrics, logos, and slogans) for analysis and basis for students to create their own Host City Bid for assessment
- 2024 **University of Bern**, Institute of Political Science
- **Interdisciplinary** MA-seminar (in German): *After the armed escalation: Analysis of conflict narratives in Russia and Ukraine (2022-2023)* (6 ECTS; 28h), Evaluation: 5.56/6
 → co-designed and co-facilitated with Historical Institute and Institute for Slavic Languages and Literature; invited guest lecturer Dr. Maryna Shevtsova to talk about political homophobia and the case of the Istanbul Convention in Ukraine; use of primary sources (e.g. feminist anti-war resistance manifesto and counter-lessons, telegram channels, decree on protection of traditional values and Putin speeches)
- 2023 **University of Bern**, Institute of Political Science
- **Interdisciplinary** MA-seminar (in German): *Before the armed escalation: Analysis of conflict narratives in Russia and Ukraine (2014-2022)* (6 ECTS; 32h), Evaluation: 5.23/6
 → co-designed and co-facilitated with Historical Institute and Institute for Slavic Languages and Literature; use of primary sources (presidential speeches, foreign and security policy documents and media articles)
 - Self-designed MA-seminar (in English): *The triangle of (de-)democratisation, political violence and resistance: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine* (6 ECTS; 26h), Evaluation: 5.45/6
 → use of 2:2 tutorial format with essay-based discussions, news briefs, debate clubs co-facilitated by students; finished with a policy hackathon to translate academic knowledge into policy recommendations
- 2021 **University of Basel**, Department of Political Science
- Self-designed MA-seminar (in English): *Authoritarianism in post-communist Europe* (6 ECTS; 32h), Evaluation: 1.3 with 1 = best, 6 = worst
- 2018 **University of Oxford**, Department of International Development
- MA-seminar in Qualitative Research Methods (12h), Evaluation: 61.11% of found it “extremely helpful”, 27.78% “very helpful”
 → covering i.a. process tracing, concept formation, Weber’s understanding and explanation, case study design
- Undergraduate**
- 2018 **University of Oxford**, Lincoln College
- 2:1 Tutorial in **International Security & Conflict** for the degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) (12h), Evaluation: none
- 2017 **University of Oxford**, Lincoln College
- 4:1 and 1:1 Tutorials in **International Relations** for the degree in PPE (12h), Evaluation: none
- 2016 **University of Oxford**, Worcester College
- 1:1 Tutorial in Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union for PPE exchange student (6h), Evaluation: none
- Professional training**
- 2020-2022 **swisspeace**, associated Institute of University of Basel
- Lead Faculty in self-designed **Masculinities, Marginalisation and Militarism** online course (6 half days), Evaluation: 4.7/5 (2020), 4.5 (2021)

→ attended by 20+ international peacebuilding practitioners; involved 4 external faculty; conceptualized and conducted three times entirely online

— Lead Faculty in **Gender, Conflict and Peacebuilding** online course (6 half days), Evaluation: 4.6/5

→ transferred from on-site to online format and co-facilitated with Dr. Ekaterina Filep

Guest lectures

2022 **University of Lausanne**, Gender Studies Centre, lecture (in French) on *Transnational feminism and the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda* for Prof. Eléonore Lépinard's course on Human Rights and Gender Equality (2h)

2021 **University of Basel**, mandatory lecture (in German) on *Feminist and critical approaches to international relations* for Dr. Sara Hellmüller's course on Introduction to International Relations (BA/MA) (2h)

Supervision

2023-2025 **Supervision of scientific collaborators**

— Dr. Ann-Kathrin Rothermel – three-year collaboration as a post-doctoral researcher (80%) on Horizon Europe project

— Dr. Valentina Nerino – three-year collaboration as a post-doctoral researcher (80%) on Horizon Europe project

Since 2023 **University of Bern: Academic supervision of 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”

— Cyril Loretan (in German) “Impact of family policies on family models and the labour market in nordic countries”

2021 **University of Basel: Supervision for thesis in Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Civilian Peacebuilding**

— Sandra Perego (in English) “A gender perspective on conflict-related sexual violence against men: recommendations for Colombia”

Since 2022 **Mentoring of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers**

— Co-creation of research network **Gender & Political Science** which grew to 30 members from all Swiss universities; Organization, facilitation and participation in network workshops and events

— Informal mentoring of junior researchers and peers at University of Bern (reviews and feedback on publication drafts, guidance for international networks and conferences, recommendations for funding, awareness raising around mental health)

2018 **University of Oxford: Methodological advisory role**

— Guiding >20 students in choosing the appropriate qualitative method for their MA thesis in MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy

Higher education training

2016 (1 day) “*Preparation for Learning and Teaching*”, Department of Politics, University of Oxford

MENTORING PROGRAMME AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2024-2025 Ukrainian beginners course, Institute of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Bern (3h/week)
- 2024 [Workshop](#) “Writing and peer reviewing for publication in social sciences and humanities”, Dr. Anne Zimmermann, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern (2 days)
- 2023-2024 [COMET - Coaching, Mentoring, Training](#), competitive career fostering programme delivered by UNIBE’s equality office for 20 female researchers (8 full days training, 12h individual coaching and mentoring)
- 2017 “Working with Concepts in the Social Sciences: from positive reconstruction to interpretive elucidation”, ECPR Winter **Methods School**, University of Bamberg (1 week)
- 2016 “Introduction to Qualitative Interpretive Methods”, ECPR Winter **Methods School**, University of Bamberg (1 week)
- 2014 (30h) **Mental Health Peer Support [training](#)** with University of Oxford’s Counselling service

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPERTISE

Academic responsibilities

- 2024 **Invited to External Expert Advisory Board** for Horizon Europe grant proposal “European value wars and religions: How anti-EU and anti-gender religious radicalism from below challenges EU institutions, religious establishments and political parties” by Prof. Kristina Stoeckl, lead coordinator.
- 2023 **Convenor** of the working group on harassment, security & ethics for the five consortia in the Horizon Europe call [“feminism for a new age of democracy”](#)
- 2023 – 2026 **Member** of General Assembly in Horizon Europe project UNTWIST, responsible for constituting its **External Expert Advisory Board**
- Since 2022 **Co-Founder** of research network [Gender & Political Science](#), Swiss Association for Gender Studies
- 2019 **Member** of jury that awarded 6 [Berrow Foundation Scholarships](#) to Swiss students to pursue postgraduate degrees at the University of Oxford

Expertise

- 2024 **Expert** for a Feminist Foreign Policy towards Russia, Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (1h)
- 2023 **Expert** for policy recommendations on 10 Feminist Approaches to Foreign Policy to advance Peace and Security, developed by PAX for Peace (1h)
- 2023 **Expert** for policy paper on feminist foreign policy towards Russia, developed by Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy & Friedrich Ebert Foundation (1 day)
- 2023 **Expert** for conference on “feminist perspectives on security and peace in Europe”, organized by European Peacebuilding Liaison Office & PAX for Peace (2 days)
- 2020 – 2022 **Lead scientific advisor** for consultancies done in the capacity of gender advisor at swisspeace i.a. for Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, **French Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs**

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* together with Ann-Kathrin Rothermel, Valentina Nerino, Colm Flaherty and Francesca Feo
- 2020 – 2022 **Co-editor** of swisspeace Working Papers, saw three papers through to publication and several more through the review process
- 2022 **Project reviewer** for Deutsche Stiftung für Friedensforschung [German Foundation for Peace Research]

Ad hoc **Anonymous reviewer** for *Social Politics, International Feminist Journal of Politics*

RESEARCH NETWORKS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Research networks

- Decision pending **Member** of **COST** action proposal Countering anti-Gender movements through a Unified and Interdisciplinary network on Democracy and political Engagement (ref OC-2024-1-27365), led by Maëlle Noir, Ekaterina Yahyaoui and Mary McGill
- Since 2023 **Co-Founder and Member** of research platform on **Conflict and Peace in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**, funded by Walter Benjamin Kolleg, UNIBE
- Member** of research cluster [Societies between stability and change](#), ZOiS – Centre for East European and international Studies, Berlin
- Member** of [Research Forum](#) *Sprache, Gewalt und Gewalterfahrung in Südost- und Osteuropa im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert [Language, violence and experience of violence in South East and Eastern Europe in the 20th and 21st century]*, Walter Benjamin Kolleg, UNIBE
- 2023-2024 **Member** of [Feminisms and Wars Community](#) Network, founded by the Swedish Defence University, the Finnish Institute for International Affairs and the University of Iceland and funded by NordForsk
- Steering committee: **Annick Wibben**, Leena Vastapuu, **Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir**, Noora Kotilainen, and Gunhild Hoogensen Gjorv
 - Three workshops with 30 early and accomplished scholars
- Since 2016 **Member** of British International Studies Association (BISA) Working Group “South East Europe”
- 2016 – 2020 **Member** of BISA Working Group “Interpretivism in International Relations”

Membership

Member of International Studies Association (ISA), European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), British International Studies Association (BISA), Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Swiss Association for Gender Studies (SAGS)

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND FIELDWORK

- 2022 – 2025 **‘Traditional Values’ in the Service of Russia’s Authoritarian Foreign Policy and Feminist Responses** – 3-year postdoc project at *Institute of Political Science, UBERN*
- **Role:** sole Principal Investigator
 - Study of the rise and (ab)use of the notion of “traditional values” as a securitization instrument in Russia’s foreign and security policy “
 - **Method:** Critical discourse analysis with coding; **Data:** policy documents, triangulated with Putin speeches around military interventions, especially since full-scale invasion (all source types online)
→ **Output:** Bias, Leandra (2024). “Traditional values in the international realm: Why foreign policy analysis should focus on anti-gender politics”, revise & resubmit with *Foreign Policy Analysis*
 - Analysis of Russia’s feminist anti-war resistance (FAR) and degree of decolonial and general critical self-reflection as a basis for future trans-border solidarity
 - **Method:** Conceptual approach based on emerging decolonial literature that problematises epistemic violence in transnational feminism and feminist security studies; **Data:** FAR resources, including their manifesto, brochure, anti-lessons, social media posts, self-published newspaper “Woman’s Truth”, triangulated with interviews (conducted by myself and published in media)

→ **Output:** Bias, Leandra “Feminist solidarity at war: The quest for the decolonial subject in Russia”, to be submitted in autumn 2024

2022 – 2024 **Power, transnational feminism and critique: Subversion vs. authoritarian co-optation in Russia and Serbia** – Monograph project, *Institute of Political Science, UBERN*

- **Role:** sole Principal Investigator
- Full revision of PhD dissertation which compares how an authoritarian environment changes Russian and Serbian feminists’ priorities and tactics and their visions of transnational feminism. Revisions based on additional research conducted since Russia’s full-scale invasion (11 new interviews with Russian feminists) and feedback received during peer review process of the full manuscript.
- **Method:** Interpretative discourse analysis, coding in MaxQDA, comparative case study; **Data:** archival material of feminist gatherings, fieldwork in sensitive context, 70 qualitative interviews across four different generations of feminists in both case studies.
→ **Output:** Bias, Leandra (forthcoming 2025) *Power, transnational feminism and critique: Subversion vs. authoritarian co-optation in Russia and Serbia* [working title], **Oxford University Press** (full manuscript reviewed, contract signed).

2023-2026 **UNTWIST: Policy recommendations to regain “losers of feminism” as mainstream voters** – 3-year Horizon Europe consortium project which I **co-acquired**, *Institute of Political Science, UBERN*

The project involves 6 universities, 1 research centre and 2 foundations, and investigates whether right-wing populist parties act as niche parties thanks to twisting gendered needs in undemocratic ways and, if so, what gender equality policies that align with democratic principles would resonate with alienated electorate.

- **Role: Co-Principal Investigator** for UNIBE’s participation as non-associated country, leading a team of two postdocs and varying number of research assistants, **Lead** in two out of ten work packages. My main responsibility lies in **team leadership**, ensuring our implementation stays in line with the project’s vision and is delivered on time. I furthermore take the strategic decisions regarding implementation together with the other PIs and the lead coordinator. I am also the sole responsible for **budget oversight, hiring, supervision** of the two postdocs and **reporting**.
- **Method:** I lead the team through a comparative project across six case studies which uses mixed-methods: Focus groups discussions, coding of party manifestos, survey analyses and administration of new questionnaire, literature reviews, typology building.
→ **Output:** Bias, L., Rothermel, A.-K., Nerino, V., & Amacker, M. (2024). Literature review of 406 academic articles from feminist, queer and masculinity studies (2008-2023 / Spain, Germany, Denmark, UK, Switzerland and Hungary). [Dataset]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10630024>
→ **Output:** Rothermel, A., Nerino, V., **Bias, L.**, and Amacker, M. (2023). Deliverable D.1.1: Typology of the Horizon Europe project, UNTWIST: Policy recommendations to regain “losers of feminism” as mainstream voters, Grant Nr. 101060836, University of Bern.
→ **Output: Special issue** on “The mobilizing potential of gender-based needs” with **open access** journal *Frontiers in Political Science*, co-edited with Ann-Kathrin Rothermel, Valentina Nerino, Francesca Feo, Colm Flaherty and Alexandra Sipos. [Call for papers](#).

2021 – 2022 **Masculinities, Violence, and Peace** – 1-year applied research project (mainly conducted in French) at *swisspeace*

- **Role: Principal Investigator**, responsible for a junior gender advisor
- **Data:** 2 weeks field research in Beirut (Lebanon) and Tunis (Tunisia), interviewing representatives from feminist / women’s NGOs, women ministries as well as feminist researchers; Conducting 10 online interviews with representatives from **French Ministry**

of European and Foreign Affairs, Agence Française du Développement and Expertise France

→ **Output:** Bias, Leandra & Janah, Yasmine (2022). “[Masculinities, Violence, and Peace](#)”, scoping study, swisspeace.

2020 – 2021 **Civil society perspectives on the Swiss National Action Plan for the Implementation of Women, Peace and Security** – 18-months applied research project (mainly conducted in German) at *swisspeace*

— **Role: Principal Investigator**, leading the project across three NGOs (6 team members), in alignment with an External Advisory Board, composed of activists and researchers, and through regular exchange with Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Women, Peace and Security Officer)

— **Data:** Conducting 20 online interviews with feminists from civil society in Switzerland and NGO partner organisations, i.a. in Columbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Kenya.

→ **Output:** Bias, Leandra, Barroso, Izabel and Filippi, Andrea (2022). “Centering Care in Women, Peace and Security: Civil society’s voice in Switzerland’s implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan 1325”, [policy brief](#), swisspeace.

→ **Output:** Bias, Leandra, Barroso, Izabel and Filippi, Andrea (2022). “No Care, No Peace! Contributions from civil society on Switzerland’s implementation of the UN Women, Peace and Security Agenda”, [advocacy report](#), swisspeace.

2015 – 2020 **The (im)possibility of feminist critique in authoritarianism: Revisiting Western knowledge-transfer in Russia and Serbia** – *DPhil thesis, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford*

— **Role: Principal investigator**, responsible for funding acquisition, data collection and analysis as well as four self-organised visiting fellowships

— **Method:** Interpretive discourse analysis (Essex School), using MaxQDA

— **Data:** 3-months fieldwork in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ivanovo (Russia, Nov 2017) and Belgrade, Niš and Kruševac (Serbia, May-June 2016); 50 Interviews with feminist activists, researchers and civil society representatives; Archival research in Gender Studies Centre and Student Centre in Belgrade

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

→ **Output:** Bias, Leandra (2020). “The (im)possibility of feminist critique in authoritarianism: Revisiting Western knowledge-transfer in Russia and Serbia”, defended 30. November.

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

2013 – 2015 **Voice through discursive practice: Russian feminism 1993-2010** – MPhil dissertation

— 1-month fieldwork in Moscow (Russia, Sept 2014)

— 20 interviews with feminist intelligentsia (founders of major NGOs, Gender Studies centres and public intellectuals)

— Discourse analysis, using NVivo

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

2023 **2-day paper workshop** – Co-convenor with Dr. Elizabeth Mesok, organized for our research network Gender & Political Science, involving 12 paper presenters and discussants and Prof. Eléonore Lépinard as keynote speakers, IPW UNIBE, 11-12 October.

- 2022 **Feminist Political Science as a Bulwark against Anti-Feminist Politics** – Roundtable organized with Dr. Elizabeth Mesok to launch our research network Gender & Political Science, Gender Studies Centre, University of Basel, 18. November.
- 2019 **How to be Critical in Critical Times?** – Panel co-convenor with Adélie Chevée for General Conference of the British International Studies Association (BISA), 12-14 June, London.

PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Chair, discussant and speaker positions

- 2024 Discussant on panels Gendered Battlegrounds and Gendered Interpretations, Annual Congress of the Swiss Political Science Association, 8-9 February, St. Gallen
- 2023 Chair of panels The power (lessness) of Social Activism: Shaping State Policy through Collective Mobilisation and Latest trends in the study of political science, General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research, 4-8 September, Prague
- 2022 Speaker on the roundtable *Feminist Political Science as a Bulwark against Anti-Feminist Politics* of research network Gender and Political Science, University of Basel.
- 2017 Discussant on panel Private Lives, Public Participation, European Conference on Politics and Gender, 8 – 10 June, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Presentations in international conferences & workshops

- 2024 *Anti-gender politics as a foreign policy tool: the case of Russia's "traditional values"*, **European Conference on Politics and Gender** (ECPG), bi-annual conference of ECPR Standing Group on Gender and Politics, Ghent (BE).
Traditional values in the service of Russian foreign policy, **International Studies Association** (ISA), Annual Convention, San Francisco (USA).
Traditional values in the international realm: Why research on anti-gender politics should focus on foreign policy, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Annual Convention, St. Gallen.
- 2023 *Feminist (de)mobilization in the wake of authoritarian Russian aggression*, European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), General Conference, Prague (CZ).
SNF Ambizione grant proposal, colloquium, ZOiS Centre for international and East European Studies, Berlin (GE).
Risky resonance: Transnational feminism in times of authoritarian 'Othering back', Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Annual Conference, Basel.
- 2022 *Risky resonance: Transnational feminism in times of authoritarian 'Othering back'*, Weaving the transnational Anti-Gender Network conference, The Centre on Social Movement Studies (cosmos), Scuola Normale Superiore Florence (IT).
Shifting power relations: Russian feminism in times of authoritarianism, International Studies Association (ISA), Annual Convention, virtual.
- 2019 *Russian feminists re-imagine epistemic community to subvert anti-Western official discourse*, British International Studies Association (BISA), Annual Conference, London (UK).
- 2018 *No such thing as 'false consciousness': Serbian feminists' rejection of post-colonial subjectivity*, British International Studies Association (BISA), Annual Conference, Bath (UK).
Is it all about anger and self-exclusion? The Serbian feminist movement through the eyes of the young feminist (in)activists, British Association for Slavonic and east European studies (BASEES), Annual Conference, Cambridge (UK).
Russian feminists' risky critique of Western knowledge-transfer, Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), Annual Congress, Geneva.

- 2017 *A genuine backlash or politics as usual? Serbian feminists' perceptions of contemporary political changes*, European Conference on Gender and Politics (ECPG), Bi-annual conference, Lausanne.
- Russian feminists' risky contestation of sistrarchy and zapadnitsi*, Workshop of BISA **Working Group on Interpretivism in International Relations**, St. Petersburg (RU).
- What does the return to local knowledge stand for? Serbian feminists between decolonisation and generational struggle*, Workshop of BISA Working Group on South East Europe, Singidunum University, Belgrade (RS).

Invitation to international workshops

- 2024 ***Femininities, Masculinities, and Sexualities in War***, 2-day workshop organized by Feminisms and Wars community, lead Prof. Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir, University of Iceland (IS).
- 2023 ***Balkan Talks on War and Peace***, 2-day workshop organized by the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, together with S. Fischer Foundation, Belgrade (RS).
- War is a feminist issue!***, 2-day workshop organized by Feminisms and Wars community, lead Prof. Annick Wibben, Swedish Defence University, Stockholm (SE).
- (Post)Colonial Nationalisms in the global South and the global North*, 2-day workshop hosted by Dr. Anukriti Dixit, Interdisciplinary centre for gender studies, UNIBE.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public presentations and outreach with policy-makers and practitioners

- Oct 2024 [Panel](#) *Charting the Path Forward: Evaluating Two Decades of Women, Peace, and Security under UN Resolution 1325*, **Imagine Forum** – Nordic solidarity for peace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and **University of Iceland**, Reykjavik.
- Dec 2023 [Keynote](#), *Frieden heisst nicht nur kein Krieg. Die Perspektive der feministischen Friedenspolitik* [Peace does not mean just absence of war. The perspective of feminist peace policy], Theater im Kornhaus, Baden.
- Oct 2023 Guest speaker in [late night talk series](#) *Weia! Waga! Nebengeräusche zum "Ring"*, Theater Basel.
- [Panel](#), *Ist das Volk der Souverän?* [Are the People the Sovereign?], *Karl*a der*die Grosse*, Zürich.
- June 2023 Civil Society Dialogue Network Conference with academics on *Feminist perspectives on peace and security in Europe*, organized by **European Peacebuilding Liaison Office** and **Pax for Peace**, Brussels (BE).
- May 2023 [Panel](#) *Neue feministische Welle?* [New feminist wave?], organized by Swiss think tank Denknetz, Park Platz, Zurich.
- Current Russian foreign policy from a feminist perspective*, expert input for **Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy** and **Friedrich Ebert Foundation** to develop recommendations for Germany's and the EU's feminist foreign policy towards Russia, Berlin (GE).
- March 2023 [Panel](#) *Diplomatie féministe: slogan ou réalité?* [Feminist diplomacy: slogan or reality?], **Maison Heinrich Heine**, Paris (FR).
- Feb 2023 [Panel](#) *War, Oppression, and Strongmen: Rethinking the Role of Anti-Feminism in Autocratic Regimes*, **Munich Security Conference** side event, organized by Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations and International Civil Society Action Network, Munich (GE).
- Convenor and speaker on [panel](#) *Krieg gegen die Ukraine: feministische und zivilgesellschaftliche Perspektiven* [War against Ukraine: feminist and civil society's perspectives], organised at the occasion of my Young Scholar 2022 Prize ceremony, Bern.
- Jan 2023 [Public talk](#), *Eine feministische Analyse als Antwort auf autoritäre Aggression* [A feminist analysis as response to authoritarian aggression], *Karl*a der*die Grosse*, Zurich.
- Dec 2022 Panel, *Feministische Aussenpolitik auch für die Schweiz? Ein Sondierungsgespräch* [Feminist foreign policy also for Switzerland? An exploratory talk], alliance f, Bern.

- Nov 2022 [Keynote](#), *Feministische Aussenpolitik: Grundsätze, Stärken, Schwächen* [*Feminist foreign policy: principles, strengths, weaknesses*], Swiss association femmes* pour la paix, Biel.
- Oct 2022 [Panel](#), *Militarismus und Männlichkeit heute. Oder: Was war nochmal Pazifismus?* [*Militarism and masculinity today. Or: what was pacifism again?*], feminister salon Basel.
- Aug 2022 [Lecture](#), *Anti-feministischer Backlash in Osteuropa* [*Anti-feminist backlash in Eastern Europe*], feministische fakultät Schweiz.
Co-convenor and speaker on [panel](#) *Wieder Krieg in Europe: Die Ukraine und den Balkan zusammendenken* [*Again a war in Europe? Thinking Ukraine and the Balkans together*], swisspeace, Basel.
[Panel](#), *Frieden in Europa: Welche Rolle spielt die Schweiz?* [*Peace in Europe: what role does Switzerland play?*], Ilanzer Sommer, Ilanz.
- April 2022 [Panel](#), *Ukraine between legacy and new beginning*, reach, online.
- March 2022 [Panel](#), *Welche Perspektiven für den Frieden?* [*What perspectives for peace?*], kosmopolitics, organised by Wochenzeitung, Zurich.
- Aug 2021 Public dialogue [booth](#) on *gender, democracy and peacebuilding*, Reach, Science et Cité and akademien der wissenschaften schweiz, Bern.
- April 2021 Online lecture to disseminate DPhil thesis, feministische fakultät Schweiz.
- March 2021 [Keynote](#), *50 ans de suffrage féminin* [*50 years women suffrage*], University of Comenius, invited by the **Embassy of Switzerland** and **Institut Français in Slovakia**, online.
- Feb 2021 Online talk to disseminate DPhil thesis, Swiss Friends of Oxford University Association.
- Jan 2021 Online panel, *Why is the study of gender important in academia today?*, Lincoln College, University of Oxford.
- 2021 – 2022 Initiated, conceptualized and co-hosted (with Dr. Dana Landau) academic podcast [Conflicts of Interest](#), featuring authors of newly published monograph, swisspeace.
- Nov 2020 Online lecture to disseminate DPhil thesis, *Feminist Critique-Ability in Authoritarian Times*, Gender Centre, **Geneva Graduate Institute**.
- May 2017 Outreach event to encourage Year 10 students to choose Politics for their A Levels and apply to Oxford, Twyford School, London (UK).

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*, Andrea Filippi, Izabel Barros, "Centering Care in Women, Peace and Security: Civil society's voice in Switzerland's implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan 1325", policy brief out of NAP 1325 project of KOFF - Swiss Plattform for peacebuilding, cfd - the feminist peace organization and PeaceWomen across the Globe, subsidised by Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, February 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](#))

Outreach via media

TV debate clubs

Krieg, das grosse Verbrechen [War, the big atrocity], *SRF Club*, 22. March 2022.

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

Articles

Weiblicher Widerstand gegen den Krieg [Female resistance against the war], *dekoder*, 16. January 2024.

Die Internationale der Antifeministen [The International of antifeminists], *Republik*, 6. June 2022, English translation on *LSE Engenderings* blog, 24. February 2023.

Hello. My name is Vladimir (he/him), *The Security Times*, February 2022.

Russkaja, *Republik*, 21 May 2021.

Angriff auf die Gender-Forschung: Kreml geht gegen Feministinnen vor, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 1 March 2021.

Why the current anti-terror debate is flawed, *swissinfo*, 24 November 2020.

Tödliche Klischees [Deadly clichés], *Republik*, 13 August 2020.

Interviews (print, radio, TV)

«Putin nutzt das Narrativ des perversen Westens» ["Putin uses the narrative of a perverse West"], *Der Bund*, 30. November 2024.

Russia's ban on the 'LGBT movement', *Meduza Naked Pravda* podcast, 8. December 2023.

Russia portrays itself as 'last line of defence for traditional values', *swissinfo*, 11. December 2023.

«Eine schädliche westliche Erfindung»: In Serbien und Russland versuchen Politiker feministische Bewegungen zu delegitimieren. ["A harmful western invention": In Serbia and Russia politician try to delegitimize feminist movements], *4x4 Podcast SRF 4 News*, 18. September 2023.

Generation Instagram macht Forschung zugänglich [Generation Instagram makes research accessible], *SNF Horizonte Magazin*, 1. June 2023.

Expert*innenstimme: Internationaler Frauentag [Expert voice: International women's day], *ZOiS – Centre for East European and international studies*, 8. March 2023.

Putin will die Erosion der Demokratien herbeiführen [Putin wants to erode democracies], *SRF News*, 4. February 2023.

Leandra Bias im Porträt: Sie will die Politik verändern [A portrait of Leandra Bias: she wants to change politics], *tagimagi*, 19. January 2023.

La Svizzera e la politica estera femminista [Switzerland and feminist foreign policy], *RSI Rete Uno*, 11. January 2023.

Ein Gespräch mit der feministischen Polit-Wissenschaftlerin Leandra Bias über ein bewegtes Jahr [A talk with feminist political scientist Leandra Bias about an intense year], *SRF Regionaljournal Bern Wallis Fribourg*, 30. December 2022.

Ist Krieg reine Männersache? [Is war a man's business?], *swissinfo*, 28. November 2022.

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

Vergewaltigungen in der Ukraine: Die Waffe des Patriarchats [Rape in Ukraine: Patriarchy's weapon], *Berliner Zeitung*, 7. May 2022.

Patriarchale Strukturen begünstigen Grausamkeiten gegen Frauen [Patriarchal structures enable atrocities against women], [SRF 4x4 Podcast](#), 19. April 2022.

Welche Rollen spielen Frauen im Krieg? [Which roles do women play in war?], [Deutschlandfunk Nova](#), 14. April 2022.

Krieg in Europa: Wie gehen wir mit dieser Zeitenwende um? [War in Europe: How do we deal with this rupture?], [SRF Kulturplatz](#), 30. March 2022.

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

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. March 2022.

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Podcast

Männlichkeit in Osteuropa - Wann ist ein Mann ein Mann?, [Masculinity in Eastern Europe -When is a man a man?], [ZOiS – Centre for East European and international studies](#), 28. June 2022.

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.

"Rückwärtsgerichtet 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.

Quoted in media

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

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

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

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

LANGUAGES

(Swiss)German & Greek: Bilingual

English: C2

French: C2

Italian: C1

Russian: C1

Serbo-Croat: B2

Ukrainian: A1