

Writing (about) Violence: Politics, Aesthetics, and Emotions

Date: Thursday 3 & Friday 4 December, 9am – 6pm both days

Location: University of Bristol, Berkeley Square - Graduate School of Education Building 4th Floor
For a map to the building see: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/maps/documents/precinct-key.pdf> (the Education building is marked with a '1')

Registration and Eligibility: The workshop is open to all doctoral and 1+3 students across the South West and other regions of the UK. **Attendance is limited to 30 participants.**

Note: Participants must be able to attend BOTH days of the workshop.

To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/writing-about-violence-two-day-workshop-registration-19420872352> (please note that workshop participants are asked to sign up for at least one break-out session for the first day, November 3rd)

The Workshop

This 2-day workshop will provide postgraduate students working within the subjects of conflict, security, and/or violence an opportunity to understand a process of the research project often overlooked in traditional postgraduate curriculums. While recent critical work has highlighted the importance of reflectivity for understanding the implications of power and representation within the process of *doing* research, less similar reflection has been advanced on the process of *writing* research. This workshop seeks to address this gap in academia and bring together a range of scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to draw out the ethically fraught and morally dubious act of writing (about) violence through three prisms of introspection – 1) politics, 2) aesthetics and 3) emotions. The workshop will assist participants, firstly, to understand the importance of and provide the tools for confronting the process of writing and, secondly, to take part in spearheading a broader dialogue and debate about writing (as) violence across the wider academic community. The workshop will be of direct relevance to students working within the broader subject areas of violence, security, war, and conflict across the social sciences, arts, and humanities using any range of qualitative or quantitative methods for their research projects but may also be of interest to those working with vulnerable or marginalized populations or on sensitive research topics.

The Approach

This workshop will engage participants through a unique approach that stresses critical and creative discussion, participation and active learning. A variety of topics will be covered by an interdisciplinary group of academics and practitioners from various geographic settings and facilitated with the assistance of graduate students associated with the Writing (about) Violence Working Group from the University of Bristol. In addition there will be a variety of practical sessions and activities, providing an opportunity for participants to put into practice the ideas and tools that are introduced and to incorporate their own ideas and experience into the sessions. Lastly, the workshop presents the opportunity for participants to contribute towards a collaborative and co-produced product which draws from the discussions and presentations of ideas made over the course of the workshop and aims at advancing a way forward.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this two-day workshop, participant will have:

- Developed an understanding of the complexities of writing (about) violence as an emotional, aesthetic, and political undertaking
- Received knowledge of how different scholars writing from different disciplinary domains write (about) violence drawing comparisons and contrasts between these approaches
- Engaged with and gained practical experience writing (about) violence

The Programme (subject to minor revisions)

Thursday, December 3 2015

Day	Session	Activities	Titles & Speakers
1	09:00-09:15	Registration	Room 4.10 Graduate School of Education, 35 Berkeley Square
	09:15-10:00	Introductory Activity	Violent Propositions <i>Facilitated by W(a)V Working Group</i>
	10:00-11:00	Session Talk: Politics	Writing Unseen Violence, or Violence off <i>Tania Kaiser (SOAS, London)</i>
	11:00-11:15	Coffee Break	
	11:15-12:15	Session Talk: Aesthetics	Violence and Intolerable Images <i>Brad Evans (International Relations, Bristol)</i>
	12:15-13:00	Session Talk: Emotion	<i>Roger MacGinty (Peace and Conflict Studies, Manchester) OR Martin Hurcombe (School of Modern Languages, Bristol)</i>
	13:00-13:15	Catered Lunch	
	13:15-14:15	Break Out Session: Intimate Conversations with the Authors	Shooting Blanks: The Aestheticization of Violence and the Violence of Aesthetics <i>Allen Feldman (Media, Culture and Communication, NYU)</i> Room 4.07
	14:15-15:15		Writing for the Eye <i>Lee Ann Fujiji (Political Science, Toronto)</i> Room 4.10
	15:15-16:15		Evidence and Fantasy in Writing Terrorism <i>Joseba Zulaika (Center for Basque Studies, Nevada)</i> Room 3.18
	16:15-16:30	Coffee Break	
	16:30-17:30	Keynote Address followed by Q & A	Anxiety and the Uncanny in Writing about Violence: Moral Dilemmas of Detached and Engaged Scholarship <i>Antonius Robben (Anthropology, Utrecht)</i>
	17:30-19:00	Drinks Reception	

Friday, December 4 2015

Day	Session	Activities	Titles & Speakers
2	09:00-11:00	World Café	Experiences with Writing (about) Violence Contributing Vignettes: <i>Carolyn Nordstrom (Anthropology, Nortre Dame)</i> <i>Jeffrey Sluka (School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey)</i> <i>Patricia Daley (Geography, Oxford)</i> <i>Jenny Pearce (Peace and Conflict Studies, Bradford)</i>
	11:00-11:15	Coffee Break	
	11:15-12:00	An Exercise in Writing Violence: An Overview	<i>Alex Preston (Creative Writing, Kent)</i>
	12:00-12:45	Catered Lunch	
	12:45-13:30	An Exercise in Writing Violence: Practical I	Beyond Witness Statements: A Biographical Approach <i>Tania Kaiser (SOAS, London)</i> OR Dangerous Truths: Absences and Presences within Visual Art <i>Olga Gonzalez (Anthropology, Macalester)</i>
	13:30-14:15	An Exercise in Writing Violence: Practical II	Writing (a text) on Violence <i>Marie Breen-Smyth (Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance, UMass)</i>
	14:15-14:30	Coffee Break	
	14:30-16:30	Participatory Writing Exercise	Creative Approaches to Writing Violence <i>Jane Reece (Graduate School of Education, Bristol)</i>
	16:30-17:15	Plenary Roundable	Writing (as) Peace? <i>Facilitated by Ann Laudati (School of Geographical Sciences, Bristol)</i>
	17:15-17:30	Evaluation and Closing Remarks	<i>Facilitated by W(a)V Working Group</i>
17:30-20:00	Dinner in Bristol Centre (self supported)		