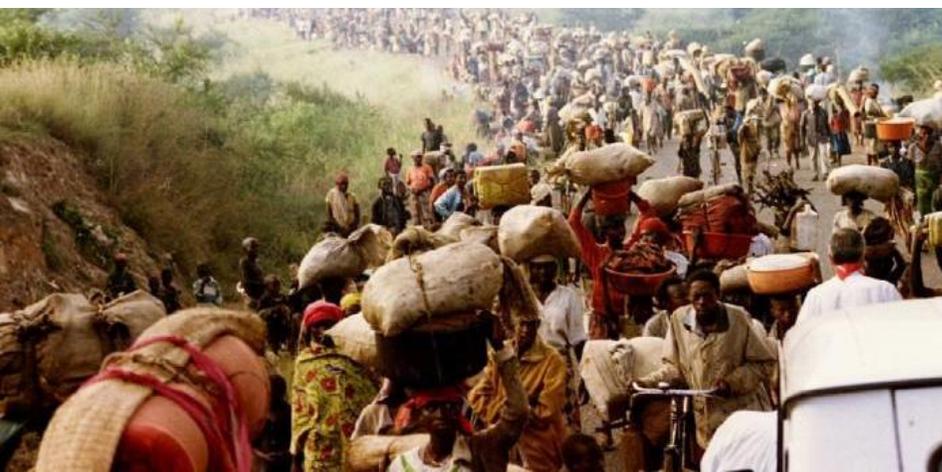


MODULE LECTURER:
DR LOUISE WISE

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

3RD YEAR OPTION
2026/27 ACADEMIC YEAR



OVERVIEW

- What is violence? How should it be represented and analysed? Why is there conflict - and what is 'our' responsibility in the face of it? How can we begin to make sense of the many different forms of violence and conflict that shape our world?
- In this module, we will grapple with these challenging questions and more. We will explore a range of critical theoretical and conceptual perspectives and engage with various empirical cases from around the world.
- Throughout, we will emphasise how the experience of violence is shaped by race, class, and gender. We will problematise clear-cut distinctions between 'war' and 'peace', think deeply about the structural character of violence, and analyse the role of the state in various forms of violence.
- We will draw on a range of disciplinary areas, including critical security studies, anthropology, political economy, feminist and postcolonial perspectives, philosophy, state crime scholarship, international relations, and critical genocide studies.



THEMES AND TOPICS COVERED

- Conceptualisations and representations of violence
- The ethics of representing others' suffering
- The nexus between femicide and neoliberalism in Latin America
- What is genocide?
- Ecocide and its connection with genocide
- Border violence and concentration camps
- Structural and everyday violence
- Feminist perspectives on violence
- Necropolitics
- Humanitarian intervention and its critics
- Post-conflict justice and healing

* Please note some of these may change year to year, as I update the module on a regular basis 😊



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will learn to:

- Critically reflect on the gendered, racialised, and colonial politics of representation and knowledge production about conflict and violence, and the ethical implications of this for us as students, teachers, and researchers in the Global North.
- Gain a deeper understanding of, compare, and critically evaluate different theoretical and conceptual approaches to the study of conflict and violence, and apply these to national and global politics.
- Analyse and engage in class discussions about different case studies, whilst learning to centre the everyday experiences of ordinary people as a source of knowledge not only about violence, but also the search for peace and justice.
- Develop the skills to think about complex long-term interactions between international, local, structural, political economic, and cultural-ideological determinants of violence and conflict.

MODULE FORMAT AND ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT

- 5,000-word final essay (100%)
- Students will be encouraged to develop their own essay question in consultation with me.

WEEKLY 3-HOUR SEMINARS

- There will be a mix of small group and individual work, class discussions and lectures.
- Our format will be flexible from week to week.