



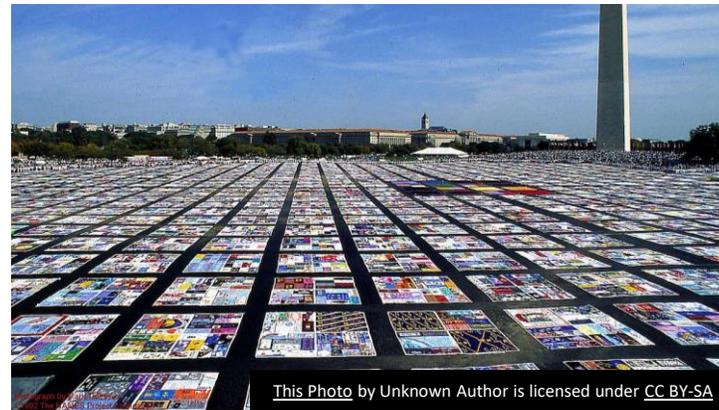
Aesthetics in Global Politics

Dr Lydia Cole

About this module



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- This is a module on global politics with a difference...that is, we will learn about substantive global political issues through a focus on aesthetics and their making, leading up to your own creative interventions
- Aesthetics - including visuals, narrative, textiles - are significant sites of knowledge on global politics. The module invites an exploration of the multiple ways that aesthetics shape, enact, and resist global politics. In doing so, the module invites you to develop a creative sensibility to the study of international relations
- The first part of the module will equip you with the conceptual, methodological, and practical tools to explore global politics through aesthetic means
- The second part of the module will engage with substantive global political issues through various aesthetic forms and media (e.g., narrative, photography, textile)

About me!



- My name is **Dr Lydia Cole**; I am a Lecturer in International Relations
- My research focuses on the role of art in understanding global politics, and I am interested in how aesthetics might shape what we know about war, peace, and political violence. Within this, I have previously engaged with conflict textiles, sound art, street art, and different forms of activism
- As part of this research, I have co-curated a series of textile exhibitions ([Stitched Voices](#) and [Threads, War and Conflict](#)) and been involved in the production of a sound archive
- You can find out more about my research [here](#)
- Please feel free to contact me on: lydia.cole@sussex.ac.uk with any questions about this module

A little bit more about the module...



- This is a new module running in 23/24! As such, it is still in the process of development
- **You should take this module if:**
 - You want to learn more about the intersection between aesthetics and global politics; particularly the ways that different aesthetic forms might shape understandings of war, peace, political violence and global insecurities
 - You are interested in developing and using creative practice to research and engage with global political issues

How will I be assessed?



- **1500-word conceptual essay (30%)** on aesthetic interventions in global politics
- **Project output (50%)**: an aesthetic research output including a creative intervention that shapes, enacts, and/or responds to a global political issue
- **1000-word reflective essay (20%)** on your aesthetic research and module learning

Indicative outline

Week 1: Introduction: Aesthetics in global politics

Week 2: Aesthetics: Framing in/visibility

Week 3: Aesthetics: Icons and emotions

Week 4: Methods for doing aesthetic politics: noticing, documenting, interpreting, making

Week 5: Narrative and autoethnography: The 'I' in IR

Week 6: Photography: Visualising everyday security

Week 7: Visual art and peacemaking

Week 8: Collaging in/security through humour and parody

Week 9: Stitching: Global politics and conflict textiles

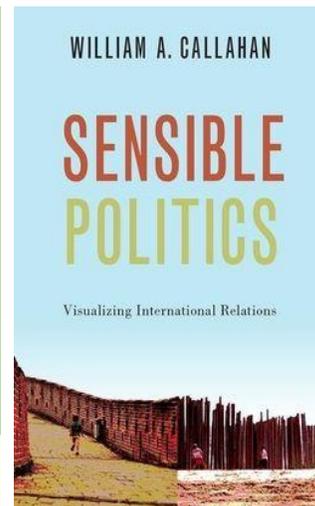
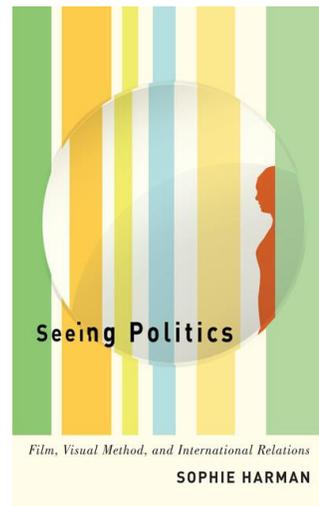
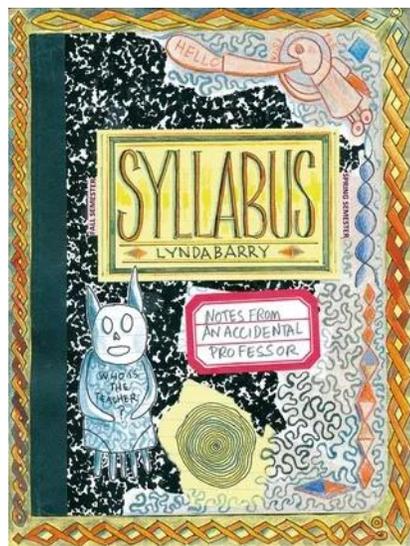
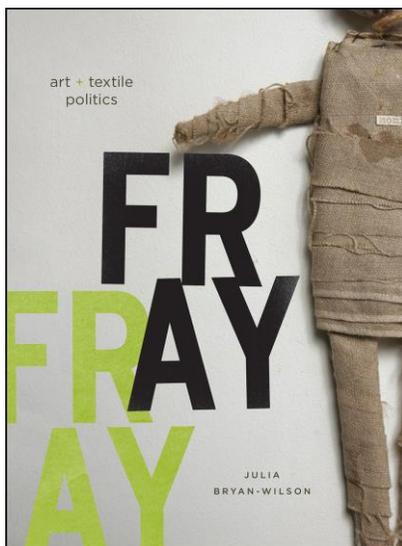
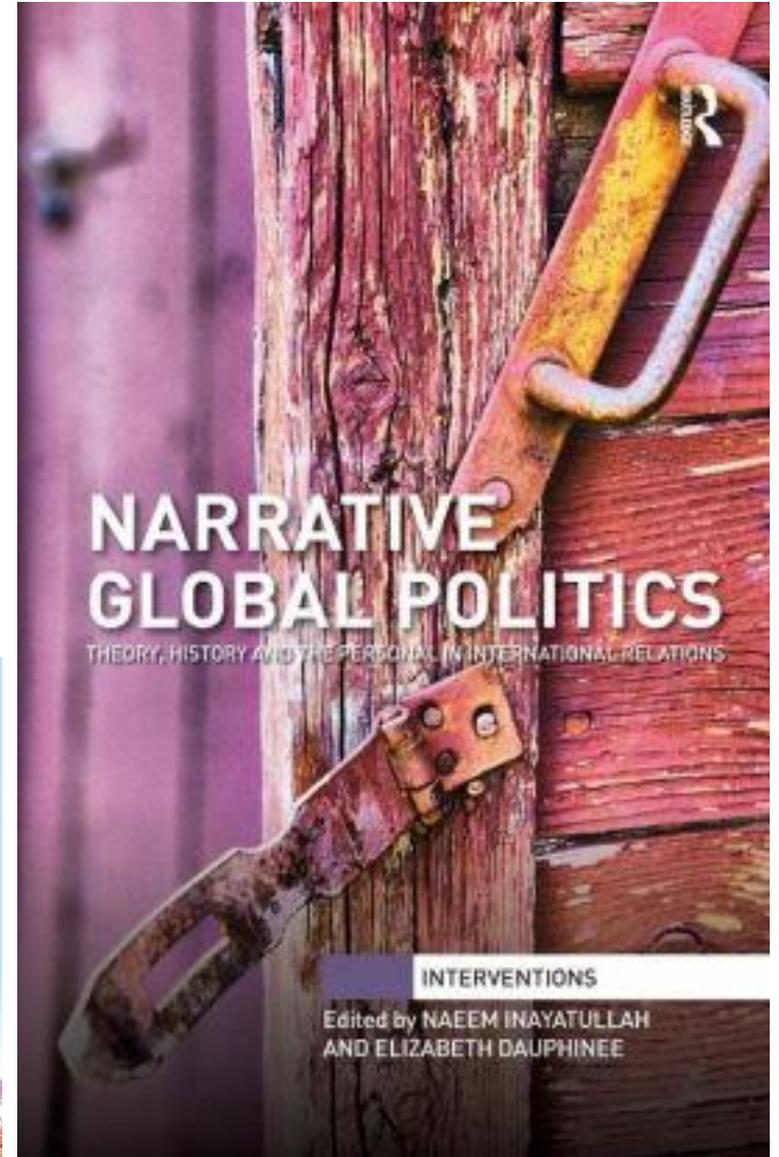
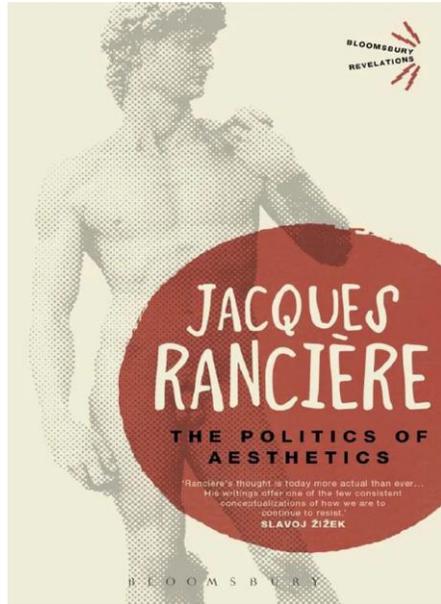
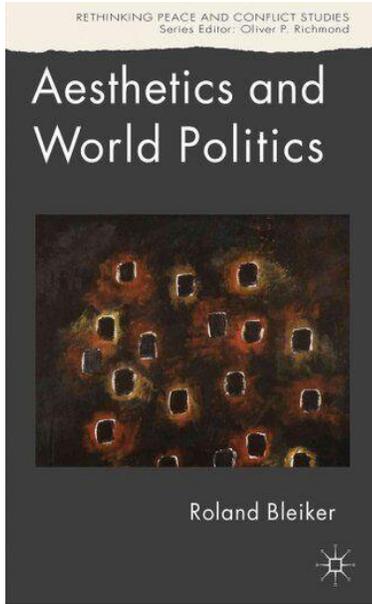
Week 10: Portfolio preparation

Week 11: Wrap up and reflective writing workshop

* Please note: this is an indicative outline, and may well change!



Indicative module reading:





Previous creative interventions made by students at University of St Andrews in response to the *Threads, War and Conflict* exhibition. Reproduced with permission!