

Gendering Diplomacy: Women's Perspectives

1 March 2022, 12:30 – 13:30 Zoom Webinar

Abstract

Over the past decade, gender equality has arrived at the centre stage of diplomacy. More and more states have made claims to promoting pro-gender norms, women's rights, and equal participation in global affairs. And yet, if we look at who is doing diplomacy, we find a continuous overrepresentation of men (Aggestam and Towns 2018). This makes it less likely that women and their experiences inform diplomatic practices.

But where are the women in diplomacy? What experiences do women make in their day-to-day work life? And what does this tell us about how diplomacy is gendered? This presentation draws on ongoing research into women in the German Foreign Office to answer these questions. It argues that we must move beyond counting men and women to understand how gender organises and structures diplomacy.

Biography of the speaker



Karoline Faerber is a PhD researcher at the Department of War Studies, King's College London.

Her transdisciplinary research is situated at the intersection of feminist international relations, institutional ethnography, and international political sociology. She is interested in questions around feminist foreign policy, diplomacy and gender, and everyday knowledge production in foreign policy.

Her current project explores if and how feminism materialises in the everyday of German foreign policy practitioners. The project is fully funded by the German Academic Scholarship Association (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes).

Karoline serves as a Deputy Features Editor with the open-access website E-International Relations. She is also a member of the Polis180 think tank for foreign and European policy and the Feminist Foreign Policy Collective, a coalition of UK-based activists and academics working on feminist foreign policy. Karoline has published with E-International Relations and the Polis180 think tank, and has provided expert comments on feminist foreign policy for German media.

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series 'Know the GAP! Looking for Gender Parity' organized by **Prof. Elisa Fornalé** who leads the SNSF-funded research project '*Gender Equality in the Mirror (GEM): Clothing the Invisibility of Women's Participation at International Level*' housed at the World Trade Institute, University of Bern.

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