

המחלקה לפוליטיקה וממשל

הסמינר המחלקתי

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ד"ר אילת הראל-שלו, המחלקה לניהול ויישוב סכסוכים, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

Bringing Women's Voices Back In:

Conducting Narrative Analysis in Security Studies and International Relations

In exploring wars and conflicts, Critical Security Studies and Feminist IR use various methodologies, including non-traditional avenues of inquiry. The current study (co-authored with Shir Daphna-Tekoah), follows these theoretical and methodological perspectives and suggests a methodology that will contribute to contemporary debates in IR. Specifically, the study offers an application of Carol Gilligan's method, the "Listening Guide." The research demonstrates the utility of the Listening Guide analysis in uncovering additional forms of knowledge regarding armed conflicts. The context for analysis is women in combat. In addition, our study contributes to the ongoing debate on women in combat by exploring women combatants' experiences of war through interviews of women soldiers who served as combatants or in combat-support roles in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We proffer that the bodily experiences of women combatants disturb conventional IR and hegemonic masculine war metanarratives that either abstract or glorify combat. These otherwise silenced narratives reveal juxtapositions of feelings of competence and vulnerability and shed light on the women's struggle for gender integration in the military.