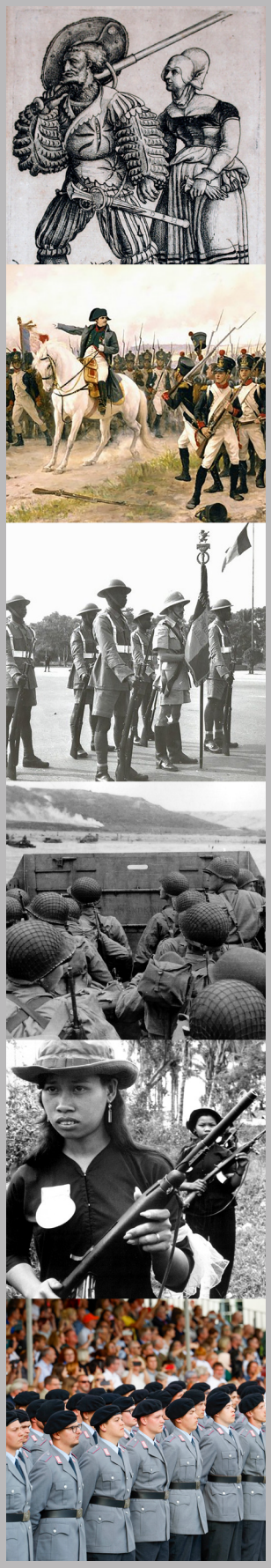
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MKGD Online Research Colloquium in the Winter Term 2026-27
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NATO's Women, Peace, and Security Policy in an Age of Anti-Gender Backlash

Prof. Dr STÉFANIE VON HLATKY
(Queen's University, Canada)

Wedesday, December 9, 2026, 4:00–6:00 pm (CET)

Gender has become a central, yet increasingly contested dimension of international security. Over the past two decades, NATO has integrated gender perspectives into military planning, operations, and institutional reform, while member states such as Canada have championed the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as part of their broader foreign and defence policies. Yet, this consensus has come under growing pressure from geopolitical rivalry, democratic backsliding, anti-gender movements, and disinformation campaigns that challenge both gender equality initiatives and the institutions that support them. Drawing on research into NATO military operations, alliance politics, and civil-military relations, this talk examines how gender has evolved from a normative commitment to a strategic consideration in contemporary security governance.

Stéfanie von Hlatky is Canada Research Chair in Gender, Security and the Armed Forces at Queen's University. Her research focuses on security, defence, military affairs, and gender. A Fellow of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, she is the author of *Deploying Feminism: The Role of Gender in NATO Military Operations* (Oxford University Press, 2022), founder of Women in International Security-Canada, and Honorary Colonel of The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment.

Moderation: Prof. Dr EVA HERSCHINGER (University of the Bundeswehr Munich)

Organizers: PD Dr Anne-Laure Briatte (Sorbonne Université); **Prof. Dr Tanja Bührer** (University of Salzburg); **Prof. Dr Isabelle Deflers** and **PD Dr Anke Fischer-Kattner** (University of the Bundeswehr Munich); **Prof. em. Dr Karen Hagemann** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)**; Prof. Dr Isabel Heinemann** (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)**; Dr Jasper Heinzen** (University of York).

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