WEAPONIZING PEOPLE
Militarization and Armed Conflict in Asia

November 9-10, 2018
University Downtown Center, Binghamton University

Sponsored by Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas
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Pre-Conference Event

Thursday, November 8

5.00 - 7.00 pm

Literary Night

Institute of Advanced Studies in The Humanities (Room: LN1106)
Binghamton University

Sorayya Khan
City of Spies

Shane Carreon
Watching, in the dark

Lubna Chaudhry
“Violence and Imperialism”

The literary evening is a pre-conference event for the international conference Weaponizing People: Militarization and Armed Conflict in Asia that will represent the evocative dimension of the conference themes. A novelist and two poets will share their work to humanize the intellectualizing of violence, it’s genesis and proliferation that will prevail in the two day formal conference. The readings will remind conference participants and other attendees that there are psychological and emotional costs to militarization and armed conflict that can not be captured by academic analysis.
8.30-9.00 am

Coffee and light breakfast
Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)

9.00-10.45 am

Breakout session 1

Panel 1: Impact of Militarization on Lived Experiences and State Institutions (Room DC 220A)

Chair: Ravi Palat, Professor, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

Shifts in the Jordanian Military Since the Black September Civil War
Eva Kahan – Tufts University

Militarization in Bangladesh: How it Endorsed a Culture of Impunity and Abuse of the Rule of Law
Justice Md. Shahinur Islam – Judge of Bangladesh Supreme Court’s High Court Division and Chairman, International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh

The Politics of Crisis and The Militarization of South Korea
George Baca – Dong-A University

Panel 2: Gendered Reconfigurations (Room DC 220B)

Chair: Mahua Sarkar, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

Using Motherhood as a Political Tool: Interplay Between Nationalism and Gender in Kashmir Conflict
Abhiruchi Ojha – Central University of Kashmir

Women’s Negotiations in the Afghan Context of Conflict: A Change in Gender Relations?
Gaur – Independent Researcher

“Re-Masculinization” Processes in Kashmir and Sri Lanka Violence: Excluding Women, Trans, and Queers from War Discourses
Urmi Gupta – Jawaharlal Nehru University
9.00-10.45 am

Panel 3: The Dynamics of State Violence (Room DC 223)

Chair: John W Chaffee, Distinguished Service Professor; History and Department of Asian and Asian American Studies; Director, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, Binghamton University

The Privatization of Violence by the Ming-Chinese State
J. Travis Shutz – Binghamton University

From Public Servants to Partisans: Militarizing Bureaucrats in Manchukuo and South Korea
Rolf I. Silverson – University of Pennsylvania

Weaponization of Thai people
Christopher Ankerson – NYU center for Global Affairs

Panel 4: Contours of Terrorism and the “War on Terror” in Pakistan and Afghanistan (Room DC 121)

Chair: Oktay Sekercisoy, Senior Director for Global Partnerships at School of Management, Binghamton University

Conflict, Security, and Militarization in Post-14 Afghan
Anup Datta – Sikkim Central University

Pakistan, War on Terror, and Transnational American Studies
Muhammed Waqar Azeem – Binghamton University

The War on Terror and Disruption of Tribal Life and Identity
Bill Topich – Pulaski Academy

10.45-11.00 am

Coffee Break
Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)

11.00 -11.15 am

Conference Welcome (Room DC 120A/B)

Lubna Chaudhry, Department of Human Development, and Member at Large, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, Binghamton University

Donald G. Nieman, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Binghamton University
**Binghamton University Downtown Center**
67 Washington Street, Binghamton

11.15 am-12.15 pm

*Plenary 1 (Room DC 120A/B)*

Chair: John W Chaffee, Distinguished Service Professor; History and Department of Asian and Asian American Studies; Director, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, Binghamton University

**Mobilizing Death: Bodies and Spirits of the Modern Japanese War Dead**

Akiko Takenaka, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Associate Department Chair, Department of History, University of Kentucky

12.15-2.30 pm

*Lunch Break*
*Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)*

2.30-4.00 pm

Breakout session 2

*Panel 1: Secessionist Struggles and Armed Conflict (Room DC 121)*

Chair: David Cingranelli, Professor, Department of Political Science & Co-Director of Human Rights Institute, Binghamton University

**The Demand for Khalistan and Its Impact on Sikhs in Punjab and in the Diaspora**
Vijayta Mahendru – Jawaharlal Nehru University

**Arming The Moros in Mindanao: The Quest for Autonomy and the Way Ahead**
Mohor Chakraborty – South Calcutta Girls’ College

*Panel 2: Gendered Contestations (Room DC 220A)*

Chair: Joshua M. Price, Professor, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

**The Politics of Utilizing Women s Combatants: Interrogating Japan’s Military Choices During World War II**
Kristin Roebuck – Cornell University

**The Female Body as a Contradictory Weapon: Female Espionage in Postcolonial East Asia**
Chun-yu Lu – College of William and Mary

**Queering the Entanglement of The American Empire in Pakistani Militarism: Multi-Layered Representations in Novels by Mohammed Hanif and Mohsin Hamid**
Talib Jabbar – University of California, Santa Cruz
**Panel 3: Foreign Intervention in National/Transnational Armed Conflicts (Room DC 220B)**

Chair: Jakob Feinig, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development, Binghamton University

- **The European Union and Conflict Resolution in Sri Lanka: Escalating Conflict or Generating Peace?**
  Ngiplon Rachel Chohwanglim – Jawaharlal Nehru University

- **The Role of the US and Pakistan in Continued Afghan Violence**
  Anuradha Rai – Amity University

- **Between Peking and Moscow: Arming Indonesians Against the West**
  Tenny Widya Kristiana – Waseda University

**Panel 4: Exploring Violence, War, and Militarization in Film and Literature (Room DC 223)**

Chair: Saba Gul Khattak, Country Director of Open Society Foundations, Pakistan

- **Literary Representation of Koreans in the Vietnam War**
  Jinim Park – Pyeongtaek University

- **Constructions of “Comfort Women” Experiences: An Analysis of Recent Films**
  Bora Kang – Binghamton University

- **Mythic Reality, Battlefield Survival, and Psychosocial Conversion in Yoshida Mitsuru’s The end of Battleship Yamato**
  David Stahl – Binghamton University

**4.00–4.15 pm**

**Coffee Break**

*Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)*
Keynote (Room DC 120A/B)

Chair: Lubna Chaudhry, Department of Human Development, and Member at Large, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, Binghamton University

Reflections on Militarization and Conflict: A Third World Feminist's Journey
Saba Gul Khattak, Country Director of Open Society Foundations, Pakistan

The presentation consists of revisiting specific lived experiences and writings—reflecting on these from a Third World feminist perspective, the author will discuss the push back against militarization and conflict as well as question her own assertions from the past in contrast to the present. In Pakistan, the nature of militarization and conflict has changed in several subtle ways. In fact, militarization and conflict exhibit significant fluidity: chameleon-like these phenomena reinvent themselves constantly, and are challenged constantly. From looking at how militarization and conflict affect our personal lives to problematizing our positions as researchers in conflict zones, she hopes to expose the interconnections between the different spaces we occupy such as the home/private and the public, conflict and non-conflict, and discuss how different women tread these spaces.

Banquet Dinner
Tioga Room, Holiday Inn Hotel,
2 Hawley St, Binghamton, NY 13901
Movie

A Thin Wall by Mara Ahmed

A documentary about memory, reconciliation and the Partition of India. It focuses on a unique event, but derives lessons that remain urgently relevant today. It is shot in Delhi, Lahore and New York.

Moderator: Ravi Palat, Professor, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

Speaker: Mara Ahmed, Pakistani American filmmaker and artist based in Rochester, New York. Her production company is Neelum Films.
### 8.30-9.00 am

**Coffee and light breakfast**  
*Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)*

### 9.00-10.00 am

**Plenary 2 (Room DC 120A/B)**  
Chair: Lubna Chaudhry, Department of Human Development, and Member at Large, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, Binghamton University

**A Critical Appraisal of Israel’s Shoot to Kill Policy: Settler-Colonialism and Warfare**  
Noura Erakat, Assistant Professor, Legal Studies, International Area Studies, and Social Justice/ Human Rights, George Mason University

### 10.00-10.15 am

**Coffee Break**  
*Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)*

### 10.15 - 11.45 am

**Breakout session 3**

**Panel 1: Militarization Processes in Colonial and Post-colonial India: Resistance and Oppression (Room DC 121)**  
Chair: Arnab Dey, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Binghamton University

- **The Making of Zeliangrong Movement in Resisting British Colonial Rule**  
  Richard Kamei – Tata Institute of Social Sciences

- **An Examination of Cultural Violence in the Context of Policing and Custodial Death in Kerala, South India, 1950-2018**  
  Vineeth RS and Sunil Kumar – NSS Hindu College

- **In the Eye of the Storm: Violence, ‘National’ Government and the Midnapore Cyclone of 1942**  
  Sravani Biswas – Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University
Panel 2: Complicating the Role of Reigning/Rising “Superpowers” and Militarization (Room DC 220A)

Chair: Denise Yull, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development, Binghamton University

Analysis of US-China Military Strategies in Taiwan
Jiangtian Xu – University of East Anglia

India and China: Conceptualizing Super Power Politics from an Asian Perspective
Leslie Keerthi Kumar Surabi Mani – Lady Shri Ram College for Women

The Effects of US military Presence on South Korean Society
Sang Y. Kim – George Washington University/Korea Economic Institute of America

US Cold War Policy and Hansen’s Disease in South Korea
Ka-eul Yoo — University of California, Santa Cruz

Panel 3: Post-conflict Memories from Multiple Perspectives (Room DC 220B)

Chair: David Stahl, Professor, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, Binghamton University

The Politics of Identity and Intergenerational Trauma of Genocide: The Nature of Social Trust in Bangladesh
Md. Shahriar Islam – Binghamton University

Sri Lankan Expatriates Viewpoints on the Civil War
Ximeng Chen and Danushka Bandara – Binghamton University; Syracuse University

Memories in Service of the Hindu nation: Compiling an Oral History of Partition in Modi’s India
Pranav Kohli – Maynooth University

11.45 am - 1.15 pm

Lunch Break
Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)
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**Binghamton University Downtown Center**
67 Washington Street, Binghamton

1.15 - 2.45 pm

Breakout session 4

**Panel 1: Analyses of Effects of War and Militarization on Early Twentieth Century China (Room DC 121)**

Chair: Fa-ti Fan, Associate Professor, Department of History, Binghamton University

**Private gun ownership and militarization in the Republican period in China**
Lei Duan – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**The impact of armed conflict on nursing experiences in wartime China, 1937-1945**
Shenglan Li – Wheaton College

**Aviation, war, and overseas Chinese, 1909-1950**
Alan Baumler – Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**Panel 2: Weaponizing Identities (Room DC 220A)**

Chair: Katherine B. Martineau. Assistant Professor of South Asian Studies Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, Binghamton University

**Hindutva Discourses and the Production of Warrior Communities: Representations in Patwardhan’s Films**
Manas Ghosh – Jadavpur University

**The Rise of Buddhist Nationalism and the Spirit of Youth Activism in Contemporary Myanmar**
Jefferson R. Mendez – University of The Philippines
1.15 - 2.45 pm

Panel 3: Ethnographic Narratives on Armed Conflict and Militarization (Room DC 220B)

Chair: Wan Yu, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Binghamton University

Children’s Multi-Layered Constructions of Violence: Voices from Swat Valley, Pakistan
Lubna N. Chaudhry – Binghamton University

Aadat of Militarized Lives: Suffering and Agency in the Everyday in Kashmir
Salma Farhad – University of Kashmir

The Work of Memory in Capturing a violent past: Embedded Emotions and Textures of Living in a Conflict Zone
Bhavneet Kaur – Delhi School of Economics

2.45 - 3.00 pm

Coffee Break

Atrium 1st floor (DC 100)

3.00 - 4.00 pm

Plenary 3 (Room DC 120A/B)

Chair: Justice Md. Shahinur Islam – Bangladesh Supreme Court, High Court Division and Chairman, International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh

Militarization of the State: Sponsoring Genocide in 1971
Mofidul Hoque, Trustee, Liberation War Museum Bangladesh

4.00 - 4.15 pm

Closing and Thanks Giving (Room DC 120A/B)

John W Chaffee, Distinguished Service Professor; History and Department of Asian and Asian American Studies; Director, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, Binghamton University
CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Meals and Refreshments:
Lunch is provided to all registered conference participants. The banquet dinner on Friday, November 9 in the Holiday Inn hotel is open to those who have already purchased tickets while registering for the conference by following the conference registration link. Coffee and water will be available in Room 120A/B throughout the day. Conference participants are welcome to use that room as a lounge throughout the duration of the conference.

Parking:
The University Downtown Center is walking distance from both downtown conference hotel. Limited parking is available at the UDC behind the building. Enter the lot on Susquehanna Street. Use the access code 3361 to open the gate on both Friday and Saturday. For the pre-conference event visitors lot on main campus would be accessible with fee.

Guest Wi-fi Access:
While at the UDC and on the main campus, guests should choose “welcome2bing” in the list of available wireless networks. To connect, open a browser, enter your email address and click Continue. welcome2bing is an unencrypted wireless network and is limited in scope and capacity. Conference participants will be able to use it while on campus through the duration of the conference.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We are grateful to our team of volunteers: Chunhua Li, Qianxin Li, and Siyin Zhao, Rubayat Jesmin, Ximeng Chen and Noor Akhter.

Conference committee members:
Lubna Chaudhry, Conference Chair, Department of Human Development, and Member at Large, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas
John Chaffee (History), Conference Co-Chair and IAAD Director and
Md. Shahriar Islam, College of Community and Public Affairs
Amy Wang, IAAD
Ravi Palat, Sociology
Monika Mehta, English and Comparative Literature