



Deutsches Historisches  
Institut in Rom  
Istituto Storico  
Germanico di Roma

FZH  
Forschungsstelle  
für Zeitgeschichte  
in Hamburg

ghi  
German  
Historical Institute  
Washington

LWL

# GENDER & VIOLENCE

Power Dynamics and their Representations,  
19th–21st Centuries

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
20–22 MAY 2026

## WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY

### OPENING KEYNOTE

**18.00 - Mara Keire** | Oxford, UK  
“Meet the Swinger”. Sex, Violence, and Domesticity in U.S. Photography, 1965–1995

## THURSDAY, 21 MAY

**9.30** - Arrival at the conference venue / Check-in

**10.00 - Petra Terhoeven, Raphael Rössel, Claudia Kemper, Daniel Gerster**  
Welcome and Introduction

### I – Representing Intimate Partner Violence

Chair: **Raphael Rössel** | Washington

**10.30 - Maren Röger** | Leipzig  
Naturalization and Pathologization. (Media) Interpretations of Intimate Partner Violence in the Long Twentieth Century

**Alberto Rizzelli** | Padova-Venezia  
The Via Sistina Drama. Judging Male Violence Against Women in a Late-19th Century Cause Célèbre

**Julia Menges** | Kassel  
The Media Debate on Domestic Violence in West Germany and France in the 1970s

**12.00** - Lunch Break

### II – Gendered Spaces – Gendered Violence?

Chair: **Hannah Ahlheim** | Giessen

**13.00 - Kristy Campbell** | München  
Gendered Spaces of Colonial Violence. How the ‘Intimate’ Sphere becomes a Space of Women’s Violent Agency in German Southwest Africa (1884–1915)

**Emma Teworte** | Oxford, UK  
‘She looked like a beaten dog’. Gender-Based Violence, the Family, and Abortion in 1930s–1950s Germany

**Zhanna Popova** | Amsterdam  
Class or Gender Interests First? Approaching Gendered Violence at the Workplace

**14.30** - Break

### III – Politics and Activism. Public Negotiations of Gender and Violence

Chair: **Daniel Gerster** | Hamburg

**14.45 - Elisabeth Kimmerle** | Potsdam  
Historicizing Femicide. Feminist Activism, Gender, and Violence in 1970s–80s West Germany

**Amrei Kienle** | Tübingen  
Gender-Specific Negotiations of Political Violence and their Representation in the Media in West Germany and Austria (1945/49–1959)

**Catherine Davies** | Zürich  
Feminist Movements and Crime Policy. Comparing the US, France, and (West) Germany, 1970s–1990s

**16.15** - Coffee Break

### IV – Changing Legal Approaches to Gender and Violence

Chair: **Lars Döpking** | Roma

**16.45 - Lisa Hellriegel** | Bremen  
Gender on Trial. Rape in German Court Cases, 1920s–1950s

**Emilia Musumeci** | Teramo  
Impossible Violence. Forensic Medicine, Criminal Law, and the Myth of Anatomical Consent in Italy (19th–20th Centuries)

**Sabina Mompó Toribio** | Barcelona  
“That woman’s moral conduct is deplorable.” The Punishment of Female Transgression Through Ordinary Judicial Proceedings for Sexual Violence (1936–1948)

**18.15** - End of Panel IV

**Afterwards:** Conference Dinner (only for participants)

## FRIDAY, 22 MAY

### V – Male War, Female Peace? Gendered Violence within Military and Martial Contexts

Chair: **Claudia Kemper** | Münster

**10.00 - Kim Bootsma, Henk de Jong** | Breda  
Female War Correspondents, Gender, and Representations of Wartime Violence (1944–1945)

**Louise Earnshaw** | Leeds  
Behind the High Walls. Captivity, Endurance, and Gendered Narratives of Violence in First World War POW Testimonies

**11.00** - Break

### VI – Harming which Bodies?

Chair: **Petra Terhoeven** | Roma

**11.15 - Kena Stüwe** | Berlin  
Of Body and of Structures – The Issue of Forced Pregnancies in the German Movement for Birth Regulation in the Early 20th Century

**Eva Payne** | Mississippi  
Selling the Body? The Relationship Between Commercial Sex and Violent Sports in the 20th Century United States

**Paula Muhr** | Hamburg-Berlin  
Gender and Violence in Medical Accounts of Hysteria and Functional Neurological Disorder, 19th–21st Centuries

**12.45** - Lunch Break

### VII – Intersecting Forms of Violence

Chair: **Vera Grund** | Roma

**13.45 - Ellinor Schweighöfer** | Frankfurt am Main  
“I don’t like Mondays.” Amok and the Question of Gender

**Anna Horstmann** | Bielefeld  
Gendered Experiences of Violence of Children in Germany During the Second World War

**Susan Grayzel** | Logan, USA  
Reproduction at War. Pregnant Bodies & Spaces of Violence

**15.15** - Break

**15.30** - Joint Concluding Discussion  
Moderators: **Raphael Rössel**

**16.00** - End of the Conference

The conference explores how violence has been publicly represented as a deeply gendered phenomenon from the nineteenth century to the present. Individual contributions trace narratives of aggression and vulnerability in the fields of (popular) media, law, and politics. The conference maintains that these narratives have themselves influenced policymaking and continue to shape social realities in ambiguous ways. Public discourses on violence both challenge and reinforce gender hierarchies.

We aim to develop a more nuanced understanding of how gender hierarchies are intertwined with the often ambivalent public perception of certain types of behavior as violent or non-violent. To develop a common agenda, the conveners have invited experts in European and North American history, as well as scholars with a global perspective, to exchange their work. Seven individual panels will bring together perspectives on intimate, institutional(ized), and wartime violence but also on and legal initiatives and activism against certain forms of violence.

The opening keynote will be delivered by Mara Keire (Oxford University).

#### Venue

**Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom  
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**!** **In-person event.**  
Please register for  
participation

