

Panel 22: Gender and armed conflict in South Asia

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Abstract: South Asia, comprising the eight countries of Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives can be regarded as a region that is plagued by small wars and insurgencies. No country of this strategically locally region is free from violence of any kind and type. This panel attempts to explore the social existence of a growing number of people in South Asia who confront violent armed conflict on a regular basis. For the people from the region, violent armed conflicts are not just an event but have become normal context for unfolding social life. In this panel we do not propose to study violent armed conflict in the region as an event that suspends social processes, but study it as a transformative social condition. More specifically, this panel proposes to explore violent conflict in South Asia from gendered perspectives. While there is already a burgeoning literature on violent conflict and insurgencies in the region, gendered participation and experiences of men and women in these conflicts therein presents itself as a relatively untouched area of inquiry. We are interested in the gendered participation of men and women from different class, caste, and ethnic background in all the different forms of armed political conflict in South Asia. We are also interested in various efforts made by women's solidarity groups for building peace, providing justice and political rights in societies ruptured by violent armed conflict. We invite papers that empirically investigate social conditions of violent armed conflict in different parts of South Asia.

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