

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES PRESENTS

Recentring the Policy Recipient: Women's Local Practices Overcoming International Discourses

G F E B R O W N B A G T A L K

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Time: 12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Location: HG 3200



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The UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security resolutions have been commended for fostering women's inclusion in peace and security; however, the language of the resolutions and the rhetoric surrounding them have reinforced discourses about Africans, gender, and conflict, reproducing sub-Saharan Africa as internally undifferentiated and as the place where women are most at risk. Conceptions of women in conflict and of conflict in Africa tend to reinforce and perpetuate the continued attention to sexualized violence as opposed to other forms of violence and possibilities of peace building in international policy. While academic critiques of the attention to sexualized violence have begun to proliferate, they do not investigate the source of this focus, nor how it falls predominantly on African women. This paper examines how local women's organizations in West Africa work to counter victimizing, marginalizing discourses through their implementation of the WPS agenda. I ask if women's organizing in their own communities can decolonize international peace and security policies, or if the policies themselves must be rewritten. Through interviews and participant observation, I explore whether local practice can decolonize international policy, or if it is beholden to policymakers and donors to such an extent that decolonization is all but impossible.

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