

Becoming War

A workshop report for the International Studies Association

Summary of Workshop Proceedings

Becoming war brought together 16 junior and mid-career scholars, including the workshop co-organizers (Antoine Bousquet, Jairus Grove, and Nisha Shah). The objective of the workshop was to address the following themes and questions:

What are the generative elements of war? How are they assembled such that the violence of war can continue to endure as a formative event in global politics? Attention to warfare in the study of international relations has provided significant insight on the causes of war and the consequences of large-scale geopolitical conflicts. Less, however, has been said about the processes by which the collective violence of war becomes – the operations by which warfare emerges, the ways in which war is conducted, and the dynamics by which war is sustained. Exploring the becoming of war, this workshop proposes a novel empirical grounding and theoretical approach that foregrounds the underlying processes, logistics, and techniques through which armed conflict is made possible and held together as a distinctive event in world politics. Widening the remit of war beyond instrumental rationales, socioeconomic causation, and geopolitical ramifications, this workshop seeks to generate an innovative research program that uncovers the palpable and martial conditions that sustain and amplify the brutality and lethality of armed conflict.

Workshop participants were asked to prepare papers that we distributed in advance, and read by all participants. Using a novel format, participants were asked not to present their own work, but to introduce and comment on the work of another contributor. The advantage of this approach was to enhance the scholarly discussion beyond a summary of a paper and consider its contributions to the overall theme of the workshop and the broader connections between all of the submitted papers. All participants valued the approach not only because it provided valuable feedback for individual authors but more significantly because it also generated dialogue across papers that allowed for the identification of crosscutting themes that laid the basis of a new research programme. Please see the attached programme.

Future Publications

The workshop's success will be showcased in a forthcoming Special Issue of the journal *Security Dialogue* co-edited by the workshop co-ordinators (Bousquet, Grove, and Shah), and the creation of a network of scholars working at the cutting edge of theoretical and empirical

approaches to the study of warfare. In addition, the co-organizers will write a substantive piece that further develops the intellectual framing of the 'becoming war' workshop, which will make a forceful intellectual contribution to the theory and study of war in International Relations.

We are grateful to the International Studies Association Workshop Grants Committee for their support of this endeavour.

		
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WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

**International Studies Association Workshop
San Francisco, CA - 3 April 2018**

9:00-9:05 AM - Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:05-9:45 AM - Introduction

Antoine Bousquet, Jairus Grove, Nisha Shah

9:45-10:00 AM - Break

10:00 AM-12:00 PM - Session 1

John Protevi - The Evolution of Anger Control and Its Tie to War (**Ben Meiches**)

Evren Eken - The Rise of Special Operations Forces: New Martial Assemblages and Warrior Subjectivities of the GWoT (**Helen Kinsella**)

Alison Howell - War and the Production of Global Racial Formations: Military Science from White Supremacy to Racial Liberalism (**Paul Kirby**)

Dan Öberg - Modelling Warfare above the Baltic Sea (**Caroline Holmqvist**)

Ben Meiches - Weapons of Excess (**Dan Monk**)

12:00-1:00 PM - Lunch

1:00-2:30 PM - Session 2

Kevin McSorley - Sensate Regimes of War: Olfaction, Tracing and Violence (**Alison Howell**)

Paul Kirby - The Body Weaponised: Rape, Generative War, and the Uncanny (**Evren Eken**)

Debbie Lisle - Becoming Safe: Life Biographies of a Bomb Disposal Robot (**Ken McLeish**)

Daniel Monk - The Jew and the Tank: of Habit and Habitus in the Historiography of Israeli Armored Warfare (**Dan Oberg**)

2:30-2:50 PM - Break

2:50-4:10 PM - Session 3

Helen Kinsella - Sleeping Soldiers (**Debbie Lisle**)

Ken Macleish - War Machine/Work Machine: On Demobilizing American Military Labor
(**Kevin McSorley**)

Caroline Holmqvist - Spectral Encounters: Political Subjects of Omnipresent War (**John
Protevi**)

4:10- 4:30 PM - Break

4:30-5:30 PM - Concluding Discussion