

GBA+

Application

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Author

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Canada and the Gulf

About the Author



Tammy George is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Science, School of Kinesiology in the area of Critical Socio-Cultural & Policy Studies in Sport & Physical Activity at York University. Her current research lies at the intersection of Canadian critical military studies, feminist theory and racial violence. Her current manuscript entitled, *Be All You Can Be or Longing to Be: Racialized soldiers, the Canadian military experience and the im/possibility of belonging to the nation* explores reconfiguration of racial and national subjectivities in an era of neoliberalism.

GBA+ Application for: "Canada and the Gulf" by Dennis Horak

DSF Thematic Team: Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

GBA+ is an analytical tool to advance gender equality and diversity outcomes of various policies, programs, and services. This strategy of gender mainstreaming is specific to the Government of Canada, and includes not only gender but also intersectional considerations, such as race and sexuality. In 2016, DND-CAF adopted GBA+ in response to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions, which acknowledges the need for gender perspectives in conflict, post-conflict and peacebuilding processes, and women's participation in decision making. GBA+ training through the Status of Women Canada online course is mandated for most DND-CAF employees and is an important consideration in assessing the most pressing future defence and security issues.

The GBA+ team of the DSF Group has developed a GBA+ toolkit that supports authors of working papers to integrate gender and intersectional considerations in their work from the initial stages of their research to the development of evidence-based findings and recommendations. The GBA+ Toolkit provides a series of key questions for regional teams to consider, such as: "are your concepts conceived in broad and inclusive ways to account for the experiences and perspectives of those not well represented in research and power structures?" or "how does your foresight analysis reinforce or challenge existing power relations?" A gender-liaison from each regional team works in consultation with members of the GBA+ team to develop GBA+ for the working papers. This GBA+ application complements the efforts of working paper authors to apply a GBA+ lens to their work.

GBA+ Considerations of "Canada and the Gulf"

The paper entitled "Canada and the Gulf" explores some of the foreign policy issues Canada has had with the Arab Gulf States over the last 50 years. Tracing both the Conservative and Liberal Government's commitments over the years, the paper examines how Canada's position in the Gulf has evolved and suggests a few contemporary security challenges that will impact Canada's future role in the region. For the most part, the paper does not use a GBA+ framework, however, there are several ways in which it could lend itself to a GBA+ lens with respect to the content and security concerns raised. For example, in the discussion on Canada's early relationship with the Gulf and the influx of a Canadian workforce to the Gulf (i.e. medical professionals), it would be valuable to understand how these decisions around employment and business have impacted gendered relations in the Gulf. Moreover, deploying a GBA+ framework to the questions raised about economics, and specifically trade, would reveal how economic issues inform gender relations and human security in the region.

A GBA+ lens on this topic would enhance understandings of how Canada's position—centering issues around women, gender, ethnicity and other markers of identity in the Gulf—have historically impacted human security in the region. This would lead to a consideration of other voices and actors in the region impacted by governmental decisions.

The author contends that Canada's foreign policy in the Gulf by the present Liberal Government has embraced a more "feminist stance" in comparison to the Conservative Government of the past. Engaging with this idea from a GBA+ lens would lend itself to an exploration of what those gendered elements might be with respect to the government's positions on foreign policy (i.e. Liberals being

more value based in their approach to foreign policy, hence seen as a more “feminist stance” in comparison to the Conservative position on the Gulf).

Recommendations

Below are recommendations for thinking through future policy implications in relation to the paper “Canada and the Gulf” by Dennis Horak:

> Reflecting on the data and sources that inform our thinking about Canada and the Middle East is crucial to a GBA+ framework. The careful inclusion of various communities is a central tenet a GBA+ framework. Seeking other data sources and community voices in the region would expand the analysis of the paper and enhance targeted policies in the region. Canadian foreign policy initiatives that are more attuned to a GBA+ framework will encourage a broader conception of security (outside of trade) and permit a more nuanced engagement with peace and human security for women in the region.

> The author has suggested that going forward there are emerging security issues with Iran and that negotiating trade in the region will continue to be a priority for Canada. In order to further understand these complex dynamics, it is important to identify the key actors involved, and from a GBA+ perspective include those actors that are not typically considered in foreign policy analyses—women civil society groups, ethnic minority groups, or other traditionally marginalized voices. Considering this broader scope of actors would allow Canada to gain a better picture of how existing power relations in the region are either challenged or maintained.