

Seminar Outline

Conflict, Trust and Terrorism: Narratives and Cultures of Political Violence from the Global South

Instructors:

Prof. Dr. Hanna Pfeifer

PD. Dr. Pavan Malreddy

This interdisciplinary seminar discusses the phenomenon of trust in a very improbable context: armed conflict and terrorism. We focus on phenomena of political violence from the Global South and access them through the lenses of literary and cultural studies, and social science and conflict studies. The seminar aims to understand the interrelationship between political violence and terrorism, and trust, a concept which is gaining momentum in social and political theory. Moving away from the 'statist' and state-centric approaches to violence, especially the negative valorization of non-state violence by the sovereign entities as terrorism, this seminar introduces students to relevant theories, contexts and methods that offer an alternative understanding of insurgency and terrorism. In particular, it focuses on the productive outcomes of conflicts in engendering new avenues of trust, political institutions and governance, and social and communal bonds while strengthening, and at times erasing, older forms of social hierarchies and inequalities. Since the seminar is taught by two experts in the field, one from social sciences background (Prof. Dr. Pfeifer) and one from the literary studies background (Dr. Malreddy), it aims to bring together the best approaches and practices from both ends of the spectrum, and offer a transdisciplinary platform for students across FB3 and FB10.

Primary Texts:

- Roy, A. 2017. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. London: Hamish Hamilton
- Khadra, Y. 2006. *The Attack*. New York, NY: Anchor Books.
- Jones, K. 2004. "Trust and Terror." In *Moral Psychology. Feminist Ethics and Social Theory*, edited by Peggy DesAutels and Margaret Urban Walker. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 3-18.
- Asad, T. 2007. *On Suicide Bombing*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Requirements:

For 3 CPs: all participants will have to

- a) read all required reading texts thoroughly;
- b) take part in a group that is responsible for presenting the readings for one session in a concise manner (max. 15 minutes in total) and develop max. 4 questions that can be discussed in class. It may make sense to prepare two separate presentations for each text (each 7 minutes) and, accordingly, split the session into half to discuss the two texts separately.

For an 8 CPs: The written assignment for those who want to gain an additional 5 CPs is a term paper (Hausarbeit) of 6.000 words. Term papers are due on 15 September 2023.

Block Sessions:

Thursday	06.07.23	09:00-15:30	SH 3.104
Friday	07.07.23	09:00-15:30	Cas 1.811
Thursday	13.07.23	09:00-15:30	SH 5.107
Friday	14.07.23	10:00-18:00	SH 3.104

Friday, April 14: Preparation of the seminar (online)

17:00-18:00, **session 1:** Seminar management

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://uni-](https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/63361110469?pwd=c1NEbkk2aW5wb0IyNEthdnpzKzUzUT09)

[frankfurt.zoom.us/j/63361110469?pwd=c1NEbkk2aW5wb0IyNEthdnpzKzUzUT09](https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/63361110469?pwd=c1NEbkk2aW5wb0IyNEthdnpzKzUzUT09)

Meeting ID: 633 6111 0469

Passcode: 707148

Thursday, July 6: Theorising trust, terrorism, and conflict

09.00-10:30, **session 2:** Theorising trust and conflict

'Introduction', in Reemtsma, J. P. 2012. *Trust and Violence: An Essay on a Modern Relationship*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1-8.

Garcia-Ponce, O., & Pasquale, B. 2013. *How Political Violence Shapes Trust in the State*. Working Paper, 1-28.

10:45-12:15, **session 3:** Theorising terrorism and trust

Jones, K. 2004. 'Trust and Terror'. In: DesAutels, P. and Urban Walker, M. eds. *Moral Psychology. Feminist Ethics and Social Theory*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 3-18.

Fierke, K. M. 2009. 'Terrorism and Trust in Northern Ireland.' *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 2, no. 3, 497-511. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17539150903306212>.

12:15-13:30: Lunch break

13.30-15:00, **session 4:** Conceptualising terror and terrorism

Tucker, D. 2001. 'What is New about the New Terrorism and How Dangerous is It?' *Terrorism and Political Violence* 13 no. 3, 1-14.

Goodwin, J. 2006. 'A Theory of Categorical Terrorism'. *Social Forces* 84, no. 4, 2027-2046.

15:00-15:30, **concluding discussion**

Friday, July 7: Criticising “terrorism”

09:00-10:30, **session 5:** Theorising political violence

‘Mbembé, J-A., & Meintjes, L. 2003. ‘Necropolitics.’ *Public Culture* 15, no. 1, 11-40.

‘Introduction’, in Kapila, S. 2021. *Violent Fraternity: Indian Political Thought in the Global Age*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1-13.

10:45-12:15, **session 6:** Criticising terrorism and imperialism

‘Horror at Suicide Terrorism, in Asad, T. 2007. *On Suicide Bombing*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 65-92.

Morton, Stephen. 2007. ‘Terrorism, Orientalism and Imperialism.’ *Wasafiri* 22, no. 2, 36-42.

12:15-13:00: Lunch break

13:00-14:15, **session 7:** The attack I

Khadra, Y. 2006. *The Attack*. New York, NY: Anchor Books (moderation/presentation, with a focus on how comedy and literary devices diffuse stereotypes and conflict situations).

14:15-15:30, **session 8:** The attack II

Khadra, Y. 2006. *The Attack*. New York, NY: Anchor Books (moderation/presentation, with a focus on conceptual application of terrorism and political violence).

Thursday, July 13: Trusting rebels, distrusting the state

09.00-10:30, **session 9:** Theorising counterterrorism

Pain, R. 2015. ‘Intimate War’, *Political Geography* 44, 64-73.

Sjoberg, L. 2015. ‘The Terror of Everyday Counterterrorism.’ *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 8, no. 3, 383-400.

10:45-12:15, **session 10:** Trusting rebels

Duyvesteyn, I. 2017. ‘Rebels and Legitimacy. An Introduction.’ *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 28 no. 4-5, 669-685.

Revkin, M. R. & Ahram, A. I. 2020. Perspectives on the Rebel Social Contract. Exit, Voice, and Loyalty in the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.’ *World Development* 132, 1-9.

12:15-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-15:00, **session 11:** Distrusting the state

Butt, A. I. 2019. Why did the United States Invade Iraq in 2003? *Security Studies* 28, no. 2, 250-285.

The War You Don’t See – a documentary by John Pilger (moderation and discussion)

Friday, July 14: Beyond terrorism

10:00-11:30, **session 12**: Roy, A. 2010. *Walking with the Comrades*. *Essay*, Outlook India, March 29, 2010 (moderation/presentation, with a focus on the formal as well as historical context of the essay).

11:45-13:15, **session 13**: Roy, A. 2010. *Walking with the Comrades*. *Essay*, Outlook India, March 29, 2010 (moderation/presentation, with a focus on conceptual application on labelling political violence).

13:15-14:30: Lunch break

14:30-16:00, **session 14**: Naming violence, framing the political

Chapter (tbd) from Malreddy, P. Forthcoming. *Insurgent Cultures: World Literatures and Narratives of Violence from the Global South*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chapter (tbd) from Pfeifer, H. Forthcoming. *Islamists and the Global Order. Between Resistance and Recognition*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

16:15-17:00, **session 15**: Concluding discussion.