

## **Book Reviews**

### **On the Frontlines: Gender, War, and the Post-Conflict Process**

**Written by: Fionnuala Ni Aolain, Dina Francesca Haynes, and Naomi Cahn**

**New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, 376 pages.**

While transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction is a newly emerging and rapidly expanding area of study, little scholarship has drawn attention to its gendered dimensions. *On the Frontlines: Gender, War, and the Post-Conflict Process* is an ambitious and comprehensive book that aims to explore the role that gender plays in the construction and implementation of post-conflict transitional processes. Drawing on a range of feminist and interdisciplinary approaches, Law Professors Ni Aolain, Haynes, and Cahn provide a detailed account of the powerfully transformative potential of the post-conflict terrain, and persuasively argue that without a gender-sensitive lens, gender hierarchies entrenched historically and exacerbated during conflict will extend into the post-conflict phase. Without essentializing women's roles or experiences, the book interrogates in great detail how the dominant social constructions of femininity and masculinity impact societies' post-conflict policies at each stage, in a variety of national contexts.

*On the Frontlines* is divided broadly into three sections: the dynamics of pre-conflict and conflict settings, 'toward peace' in the immediate aftermath of war, and longer-term reconstruction and development. The first section stresses the need for more detailed analysis of how women's prewar political, social and economic status relates to their experiences in conflict and its aftermath, and criticizes the way in which dominant discourses of all men as militaristic (hypermasculine) and all women as victims (or peacemakers) simplifies what actually happens during times of war.

The second (and by far the longest) section of the book is entitled 'toward peace,' and stresses that post-conflict societies which are not safe for women are not secure in the broad sense of the term, for example as domestic and gender-based violence often increases in this context. The authors argue for a new paradigm of security in which there is an emphasis on local participation and women are meaningfully represented in all decision-making processes. The next chapter looks at the complex issues around international intervention (broadly defined), in order to identify points at which intervening can operate to recalibrate gender roles and improve the lives of women and men. Further, this section articulates how traditionally masculine-dominated Peacekeeping missions and Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programs could be effectively enhanced if women's concerns were integrated into their objectives. Moving to a discussion of criminal accountability for gender violence, the authors draw on a variety of cases to examine the extent to which post-conflict accountability norms actually map onto women's subjective experiences. Without downplaying the significance of increased international recognition of sexual violence during war, they argue we need to be attuned to other forms of harm which impact women disproportionately. The book also explores alternative mechanisms to retributive justice, including truth commissions and reparations, and how each can centralize gender. Finally in this section, the authors explicate how law reform and Constitutional design offers possibilities to advance women's rights. The authors persuasively argue that beyond gender mainstreaming, which has largely become a convenient tool for policymakers, a *gender-central approach* must be adopted in which the equal rights and social and economic empowerment of women are paramount.

The final section of the book examines long-term reconstruction and development, arguing that success depends significantly on gender integration. Much attention has been given to political quotas for women's participation, but greater commitment to social and economic rights is needed for real transformation. The authors explore in detail processes of democratization, institution-building, as well as the consequences of economic liberalization which often disproportionately burden women.

One of the greatest strengths of this book is in providing insightful critiques, but also including recommendations and solutions for gender centrality at each stage of the transitional process. The authors have drawn a detailed picture of the complexities of integrating gender into post-conflict processes, while being deliberately attentive to avoid generalizing women's experiences. Perhaps one of the drawbacks of

this book is its attempt to extract sweeping conclusions from such a widely varied set of complex case studies, but it is an effective overview of the importance of moving gender to the forefront in post-conflict processes, from which scholars researching particular cases in detail can draw. While aimed at an academic audience, the lessons elucidated here are crucial for activists, development/aid workers, peacekeepers, public servants, researchers, and anyone interested in advancing the transformative possibilities of post-conflict societies. Offering concrete analysis and practical solutions, this book persuasively argues for a broader and deeper attempt to alter the social, political, and legal hierarchies which have long entrenched gender inequality, 'engendering' real transformation in post-conflict societies.

Review by Nicole Ephgrave  
PhD Candidate, University of Western Ontario

**Mobility, Sexuality and AIDS**  
**Edited by: Felicity Thomas, Mary Haour-Knipe and Peter Aggleton**  
**New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, 2010, 240 pages.**

Mobility, Sexuality and AIDS examines migrants' motivation for migrating, their experiences in destination countries, and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection. It also explores the effects of migration on home countries. The book consists of a compilation of case studies drawn from different countries such as the U.S.A, Mexico, China, South Africa, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Kenya. The case studies discussed in the book were written by seasoned authors using both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

The book is organised into sixteen chapters - two introductory chapters and fourteen other chapters spread across three broad sections covering such topics as: mobility and the experience of the self; sexuality, sexual identity and migration; mobility and pleasure; and mobility and work.

The editors outlined a number of factors that motivate people to move within and across national borders. The most illuminating factors are gender inequality and the freedom to pursue sexual orientations. For instance, the editors explained how gender inequality compelled young Gambian men to migrate to tourist centres in The Gambia to seek sexual relationships with older female tourists in the hope of making some money to meet expected family needs or establishing lasting partnership aimed at providing an opportunity to migrate to the west. Furthermore, forced marriages and the inability to own property forced some women in parts of Kenya to migrate to work on tea plantations. Others, however, migrate solely for the freedom to practice their sexual orientation without facing hostility, or to fulfill sexual fantasies devoid of commitments.

The book also discusses the realities of migrants in destination countries and describes them as varied and complex. In some context, migrants experience physical and sexual abuse, forced prostitution, poverty and labour exploitation, which potentially increase their vulnerability to HIV infections. In other settings, migrants integrate well and are protected against HIV risk because they have access to social amenities, sexual health information, and services which were not easily accessible in migrants' home countries.

The editors' exposition on the socio-economic impacts of returning migrants on their home countries is quite intriguing. While the opportunity to invest money earned abroad coupled with the tendency to be profligate in spending by returnees may promote economic growth in home economies, the promiscuous life styles of some returnees, however, expose both the returnees and the home populations to HIV infection. In addition, the new cultures (often considered indecent) transferred by returnees to home countries have been criticised particularly by the older generation and some religious bodies in the home countries as challenging the moral fabric of the home countries.

The strength of this book lies in its ability to assemble substantial range of empirical evidence from different countries to challenge common assumptions about mobility, HIV, and AIDS. In some parts of South Africa, it is women and not men who are perceived to infect their partners with HIV. The

editors did a good job of identifying research gaps and also providing valuable policy recommendations to mitigate problems associated with mobility, sexuality and AIDS.

There are inevitable weaknesses. First, the final portion of the introduction which speaks about the fears that mobile populations or outsiders might bring infectious disease needs further interrogation - especially in the light of the lack of evidence within the book itself. Second, the last section on "migration and work" focuses on studies from developing countries. Studies from other regions of the world could have been included to broaden the scope and perspective of readers. Nonetheless, the book makes important contributions to understanding migrants' experiences and vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS. It is an invaluable book for policy makers, students and experts working in the fields of migration, development studies, sociology, and public health.

Review by Susan Langmagne  
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**Undesirables: White Canada and the Komagata Maru Story**

**Written by: Ali Kazimi**

**Vancouver: Douglas MyIntyre Publishers Inc., 2012, 176 pages.**

The *Komagata Maru* is one of Canada's dirty secrets. The vast majority of Canadians have never even heard of this ship that carried 376 would-be migrants (340 Sikhs, 12 Hindus and 24 Muslims) from India in 1914. Even fewer would know the active role Canadian officials, including immigration officers, politicians, and the legal actors would play in sealing the fate of those passengers. Ali Kazimi's book, *Undesirables: White Canada and the Komagata Maru Story*, exposes this dark and often forgotten episode in Canadian history. As Kazimi notes, this was the first instance where a ship of would-be migrants was turned away from Canada's shores. This incident, along with the responses (both official and unofficial) speaks volumes to how a white settler nation, such as Canada, constructs its identity in the nation building project. The *Komagata Maru* tragedy also illustrates the myth of cultural pluralism within the British colonial Empire and may provide some insights into the limits of multiculturalism in present day Canada. However, at the same time, the story of the *Komagata Maru* is one of resistance, on the part of the passengers and the South Asian community in Canada, through their use of the Canadian legal system to challenge (albeit unsuccessfully) the restrictive and racist immigration policies of the Canadian government.

Building upon his research and the content of his award-winning documentary film, *Continuous Journey*, Kazimi weaves together the intricate details of the *Komagata Maru* and once again brings this story to life in a different medium. This illustrated history includes archival photographs, historical letters and documents, maps, and other striking visuals, that chronicle not only the arrival of South Asian migrants but also positions their arrival within the context of earlier migrants such as anti-Asian policies directed at limiting Chinese and Japanese immigration, the colonization of Canada's indigenous peoples, and African Canadian histories. In doing so, Kazimi demonstrates that the story of the *Komagata Maru* begins not with the boat's arrival in 1914, but rather centuries before and lies in the shared colonial histories of India and Canada.

The premise of Kazimi's argument rests around the tensions between the Dominion of Canada's desire to maintain its white settler nation status by keeping racialized migrants offshore, and the British Imperial government's difficulties in preventing subjects of the British Empire, such as Indian nationals, from migrating to the white settler colonies. These tensions resulted in the Canadian government employing a series of restrictive orders-in-councils such as the "continuous journey" regulation that prevented the immigration of those who did not arrive to Canada through a continuous voyage from their country of origin. The arrival of the *Komagata Maru* sparked a wave of panic amongst white British Columbians, who feared that allowing these migrants to enter and remain in Canada would open a floodgate of migrants from Asia. The process of racialization plays a central part in Kazimi's narrative

analysis, as this was also a period of time when the Canadian government was actively recruiting and welcoming white immigrants from Europe.

Kazimi highlights the social, political, economic, and legal discourses that allowed the *Komagata Maru* and its passengers to be escorted out of Canada by a military warship, eventually to return to India where 22 passengers would be massacred upon disembarking. In particular, the legal discourse played a significant role in how the *Komagata Maru* story would unfold; beginning with the enactment of restrictive legislation and regulations which excluded certain classes of racialized immigrants and culminating in the British Columbia Court of Appeal decision that upheld the exclusionary policies.

Almost a century later, the *Komagata Maru* tragedy has since faded from public memory. However, the discourses surrounding the arrival of Tamil asylum seekers aboard two boats, the MV Ocean Lady in 2009 and the MV Sun Sea in 2010, demonstrates how relevant the issues and analysis found in Kazimi's book is to present day Canada. The reception and reaction of the Tamil boat arrivals echoes many of the sentiments expressed by the arrival of the *Komagata Maru*. *Undesirables* reminds us that if we are to learn anything from our past we must actively recollect, recall and retell the stories of the past so that their mistakes are not forgotten in the present or repeated in the future.

Review by Harini Sivalingam  
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**Principles and Practice of Structural Equation Modeling (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.)**  
**Written by: Rex B. Kline**  
**New York: Guilford Press, 2011, 427 pages.**

Structural equation modeling (SEM) is a set of related statistical techniques involving factor and path analyses. SEM may be applied to data collected through experimental and non-experimental research designs, and is increasingly used across a wide range of research disciplines. As reflected in the title, *Principles and Practice of Structural Equation Modeling* (Third Edition), the goal of this book written by Rex B. Kline is to provide a comprehensive introduction to principles and assumptions underlying SEM, as well as its application. This book is suitable for advanced researchers who are new to SEM, and is fully accessible to graduate students. In depth knowledge of matrix algebra and experience with SEM computer software are not prerequisites for this book given that it is more conceptual than mathematical in nature and is not centered on one software package. Accordingly, this book contains 13 chapters and is divided into three separate but related sections.

Part I, "Concepts and Tools," introduces the rationale, data input, and preparation for SEM. An important point highlighted is that one can use raw data or summary statistics based on raw data (e.g., covariance matrix) in SEM. As well, Dr. Kline discusses how properties of the data, such as positive definiteness of a covariance matrix and multivariate normality of raw data can influence the outcome of SEM analyses. This section also includes a description of major commercial and open source software packages used to conduct SEM.

Part II, "Core Techniques," provides a detailed discussion of different types of SEM in relation to hypothesis testing, namely path analysis involving observed variables, as well as confirmatory factor analysis and structural regression models involving latent variables. Confirmatory factor analysis is important for assessing the factor structure of scales and construct validity. Evaluation of model fit and different estimation methods used to analyze structural equation models are also covered in this section. Dr. Kline's illustrative approach to describing the assumptions and testing procedure for each type of structural equation model is a hallmark of the book. Specifically, graphics, prose, and examples from published research assist the reader in acquiring a thorough understanding of different structural equation models and their application. Exercises are provided at the end of each chapter in Part II which affords the reader the opportunity to gain an applied understanding of different SEM methods.

Part III, "Advanced Techniques and Avoiding Mistakes," provides an overview of advanced methods in SEM, including interaction effects of observed and latent variables, multi-group analyses,

latent growth curve models, and multilevel SEM. Although not described in detail, enough information is provided in this overview to understand and apply these advanced methods. As well, Dr. Kline offers 52 suggestions on how to avoid common mistakes at all stages of a SEM analysis which are a unique feature of this book and an invaluable resource for researchers who are beginning their SEM training.

Overall, *Principles and Practice of Structural Equation Modeling* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) is an important contribution to the theory and application of factor and path analyses. This third edition is superior to previous editions in many ways; most notably, the content reflects current advances and “topic boxes” are provided to outline specific issues. One limitation of this book is that it provides restricted detail on more advanced uses of SEM. However, the website that accompanies this book lists additional resources to aid in developing a more sophisticated understanding of SEM. In sum, *Principles and Practice of Structural Equation Modeling* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) is a comprehensive introduction to many facets of SEM and is a must read for those venturing into the area of factor and path analyses.

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