



פורום מחקר על מגדר, יישוב סכסוכים ושלום של
המכון ליחסים בינלאומיים ע"ש לאונרד דיוויס
The Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations
**The LDI Program on Gender,
Conflict Resolution and Peace**



מזמין את הציבור להרצאתה של:

Prof. Kristen P. Williams
Clark University

בנושא:

Challenging Gendered Norms: Women and Political Violence versus Women Working for Peace

ההרצאה תתקיים ביום רביעי, 11 בינואר, 2012

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קמפוס הר הצופים, ירושלים

ההרצאה תינתן בשפה האנגלית

לבירורים: המכון ליחסים בינלאומיים ע"ש לאונרד דיוויס

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Professor Williams teaches courses on international relations, including U.S. National Security, Women and War, Peace and War, and World Order and Globalization. Her current research project (with Joyce P. Kaufman) focuses on the question of women's participation in political violence. She is also working on an edited volume on the challenges to and limitations of hegemony.

Challenging Gendered Norms: Women and Political Violence versus Women Working for Peace

Feminist International Relations scholars ask the question "where are the women?" They do so because traditional International Relations research often renders women invisible when, in actuality, women are not only present but deeply affected by critical international relations topics pertaining to security, war, and conflict resolution. A plethora of headlines relatively recently has raised attention to the role of women as active participants in ongoing conflicts: in July 2008 the front page of *The New York Times* had a story entitled "Despair Drives Suicide Attacks by Iraq Women." What was especially striking about the story was not the fact that the woman identified was the 18th female suicide bomber to strike in Diyala province. Rather, the emphasis in the story was on the question of why women in this relatively conservative society are resorting to a type of violence traditionally associated with men. Perhaps what is more surprising is not why these women are turning to suicide bombing as a means of political expression, but why so little attention has been given to the role of women who engage in political violence in light of the fact that using violence as a means of political action or activism is not a new option for women. Based on her current research project, in this talk Professor Kristen Williams will examine several questions: What factors lead some women to choose violence versus working for peace? Are the factors that result in women perpetrating acts of violence different for women than they are for men? Do women and men conceive of security differently? What does this tell us about the ways in which we can understand the choices people make, regardless of biological sex? What does this tell us about the ways that gender is socially constructed? How do women's actions fit within the "traditional" stereotypes of women and women's choices regarding political violence? And, ultimately, whether or how does women's participation in conflicts, either as combatants or working for peace, change the nature of the conflict?