



NEWSLETTER

September 2024

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

This newsletter edition comes shortly after a small but exciting RC01 seminar in Porto, Portugal, on August 26. The seminar took advantage of the European Sociological Association congress that week.

It also comes shortly after the opening of registrations for the much-anticipated 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, set to take place in the vibrant setting of Morocco in July 2025. Our RC01 is proud to be hosting 15 panels, four of which are in partnership with other RCs. I encourage all of you to submit your proposals and spread the word, as we look forward to making a significant impact at the Forum.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our colleague and Board member Adriana Marques, who has just been elected president of the Brazilian Association for Defense Studies (ABED), and welcome back our colleague and former RC01 vice-president Helena Carreiras, who is once again actively participating in our group after spending two years as Portugal's Minister of Defense.

News from the Editor

ISA Forum 2025

A total of 15 panel proposals were submitted to RC01 for the ISA Forum 2025. Out of these, 4 panels will have co-hosts, while RC01 will solely host the remaining panels. Additionally, the call for abstract submissions is now officially open:

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/rabat-2025/5th-isa-forum-call-for-abstracts>) and the deadline is October 15, 2024.

1. Investigando a Los Militares En América Latina
2. Women As Agents of Change: Their Transformative Role in Peace and Conflict Resolution
3. War Ecology and Society in the Anthropocene
4. Nutrition in the Armed Forces – a Sociological Perspective
5. Reframing War in a Multipolar World
6. Trust in the Armed Forces
7. Research on the Military: Methodological Issues
8. Education in Times of Peace, with Conflict in Mind: Overlaps and Spill-over Effects of Military and Civil Education Paths
9. Rethinking Professional Military Education (PME) – New Interpretations of Its Past, Present and Future?

10. Military and Society Transformations after the Years of Full Scale War: The Case of Russo-Ukrainian Conflict
11. Job Satisfaction, Commitment, and Retention of Personnel: Key Considerations for Military Capability in Today's Defence and Security Context
12. The Sociologist in a Political Role: The Experience of Being the Minister of Defense
13. Sociology of Resistance: Palestinian Society As a Case Study
14. Total Defence Forces in the 21st Century – Integration of Regulars, Reservists, Defence Civilians, and Contractors
15. Armed Forces and Democracy: Contemporary Experiences

New Editor-in-Chief for Armed Forces and Society

The Inter-University Seminar is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its journal, *Armed Forces & Society* (AF&S). In 2025, Dr. Patricia Shields, the esteemed Editor-in-Chief, will retire after over twenty years of dedicated service to the journal and our field of research.

The IUS Board of Directors has announced that Dr. Ori Swed will succeed Dr. Shields as the next Editor-in-Chief of *Armed Forces & Society*. The AF&S Editor-in-Chief transition period will include an overlap in 2025 to ensure a smooth transition.

Promotion of RC01

Last year, we successfully extended invitations to nearly 5000 sociologists working in the armed forces, conflict resolution and related fields around the world. In August 2024, we also introduced our committee to military schools in 24 countries. Please let us know if there are any schools you would like to see added to this list. Our strength undoubtedly comes from our valued members and we look forward to your valuable contributions and new ideas.

1. Austrian National Defence Academy
2. Baltic Defence College
3. Royal Military College of Canada
4. Royal Danish Defence College
5. Finnish National Defence University
6. Netherlands Defence Academy
7. Norwegian Defence University College
8. Swedish Defence University
9. War Studies University-Poland
10. West Point Military Academy
11. Military University Institute of Portugal
12. Royal Military Academy of Belgium
13. University of Namibia, School of Military Science
14. Turkish National Defence University



15. General Jonas Zemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania
16. Mongolian National Defence University
17. Military Schools Centre of Slovenia
18. Military Academy (MILAC) at ETH Zurich
19. Royal Military College, Saint-Jean Canada
20. Mexico Colegio de la Defensa Nacional (National Defense College).
21. National Defence College Uganda (NDC-U)
22. UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy
23. Australian Defence College
24. National Defense University "Carol I", Bucharest

Official email account:

During this period, the ISA secretariat has assigned an official email account to each research committee. You can now reach us via this email: RC01 Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution isa-rc01@isa-sociology.org

We also have a Google Drive limit of 15 GB in connection with this account. Therefore, we can store our critical documents on this drive. This is extremely important for corporate continuity, so feel free to share any document that would be beneficial for the corporate identity of RC01.

Recent Publications

Books:

1. BERNDTSSON, J., GOLDENBERG, I., and VON HLATKY, S. Total Defence Forces in the 21st Century (Montréal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023).

<https://www.mqup.ca/total-defence-forces-in-the-twenty-first-century-products-9780228019282.php>

Total defence, as a concept, combines and extends military and civil defence: in a state of war or emergency, all social institutions mobilize to defend the state. Total defence forces, led by a diverse workforce of defence and security professionals, are critical to both national defence and international security goals.

Total Defence Forces in the Twenty-First Century looks at the various groups that make up this workforce: members of the military's regular force, reservists, defence civil servants, and contractors working for private military and security companies. When civilian staff and military personnel work towards a common goal, their distinct professional cultures and identities can make integration challenging. Despite the often high levels of partnership, underlying differences affect the quality of the collaboration and, ultimately, organizational and operational effectiveness. Defence ministries around the world are increasingly recognizing the importance of optimizing the ways in which they employ and integrate civilian and military personnel.

This volume focuses on a critical question: what are the main challenges to workforce integration and collaboration, and how can such challenges be overcome to deliver the full potential of the total defence force? Together, scholars and practitioners provide some answers.

2. WEST, B. and CARTER, C. (eds) (2024) *The New Australian Military Sociology: Antipodean Perspectives*. New York: Berghahn.

<https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/WestNew>

Civil-military relations have changed over time with respect to changing demographics, new domestic and international responsibilities, Industry-Defence cooperation, women in the armed forces and contemporary veteran wellbeing. *The New Australian Military Sociology* aims to provide an antipodean view to theorising civil-military entanglements and uses Australia's unique geographic, political and cultural context to serve as a case study for other countries.

3. BEN-SHALOM U., MOELKER R., STERN N., BEN-ARI E. (2024) (Eds.), *Military heroism in a post-heroic era*, Springer Nature Switzerland.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-51556-9>

This volume explores issues involving heroism and how it has both continued and changed as a military ideal, a motivational factor and a public symbol. It focuses on the question of whether, in the recent past, new kinds of ideals of heroism (and by association, valor, sacrifice or bravery) have been added to older forms? This question inquires whether new criteria have emerged to acknowledge and highlight exceptional military behavior. Evidence of the continued importance of heroism is presented and seven (non-exclusive) theses about its contemporary manifestations are presented and linked to scholarship and the book's chapters: Post-heroism and casualty aversion; professionalization; changing organizational locus; post-patriotic heroism; a shift to rescue and recovery; individualization; and democratization. Next the politics of heroism as a resource is explored and the conclusion argues for cumulative model in which newer forms are added to older forms of heroism.

4. MOON, Seungsook, *Civic Activism in South Korea: The Intertwining of Democracy and Neoliberalism*, Columbia University Press, 2024

<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/civic-activism-in-south-korea/9780231211499>

In recent decades, neoliberalism has transformed South Korean society, going far beyond simply restructuring the economy. In response, a number of civic organizations which emerged from the democratization movement of the 1980s with a conscious emphasis on social change have sought to address socioeconomic and political problems caused or aggravated by the neoliberal transformation.

Examining how "citizens' organizations" in South Korea negotiate with the market and neoliberal governance, Seungsook Moon offers new ways to understand the intricate relationship between democracy and neoliberalism as modes of ruling. She provides in-depth qualitative studies of three different types of organizations: a large national advocacy organization run by professional staff activists, two medium-size local branches of a national feminist organization run by mostly volunteer activists, and a small local organization run by volunteer activists with a focus on foreign migrants.

Bringing together these rich empirical cases with deft theoretical analysis, Moon argues that neoliberalism and democracy are entwined in complex ways. Although neoliberalism undermines democratic practices of social equality by shrinking or destroying public resources, institutions, and space, it also can facilitate participatory practices that arise to fill needs left by privatization and deregulation as long as they do not seriously challenge the workings of capitalism. Showing how neoliberalism simultaneously enables and constrains civic activism, this book illuminates the contradictions of social engagement today, with global implications.

Book chapters:

1. PEARCE, K., Michaud, K., Goldenberg, I., & Huebner, M.G., Heroism in the Context of a Global Pandemic: Canadian Armed Forces Domestic Deployment in Response to COVID-19. Military Heroism in a Post-Heroic Era, in Uzi Ben-Shalom, Eyal Ben-Ari, Rene Moelker, & Nehama Stern (Eds), DRDC-RDDC-2024-E160, May 2024, 269-285.

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-51556-9_16

As part of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, select Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel deployed on a domestic operation called Operation LASER (Op LASER) to support civilian staff at long-term care facilities (LTCF) in Ontario and Quebec. OP LASER personnel faced several unique challenges and stressors, including working with an ill and vulnerable elderly population, risk of catching the virus, concern for the health and well-being of loved ones while away, and being exposed to morally distressing events, all of which can be associated with decreases in psychological well-being. Despite the unprecedented circumstances, OP LASER personnel exemplified heroism in the course of these humanitarian efforts. These CAF members faced unique challenges and personal sacrifices, demonstrating resilience in the face of adversity in the course of contributing to the protection of the broader Canadian society in the context of the global pandemic. This deployment embodies the notion of polymorphic heroism in today's post-heroic era with heroism extending beyond the traditional military battlefield.

2. GOLDENBERG, I., & Otis, N., Canadian Armed Forces Reconstitution: The Critical Role of Personnel Retention. In Thomas Juneau and Philippe Lagassé (eds.), Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2023, 29-50.

<https://www.springerprofessional.de/en/canadian-defence-policy-in-theory-and-practice-volume-2/26110960#TOC>

People are at the core of everything the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) does to deliver on its mandate. The extensive training, education, and socialization that CAF members receive to imbue them with specialized military knowledge and skills needed to meet the unique demands of military service make personnel the CAF's most important asset, and personnel retention one of the CAF's top strategic priorities.

3. GOLDENBERG, I., & Febbraro, A.R., Civil-military relations in our own backyard (U): Partnership between military members and defence civil servants (U). In J. Berndtsson, I. Goldenberg,

and S. von Hlatky (Eds.), Total defence forces in the 21st century. McGill-Queens University Press, DRDC-RDDC-2023-PXXX, 2023, 118-139.

<https://www.mqup.ca/total-defence-forces-in-the-twenty-first-century-products-9780228019299.php>

Journal articles:

1. GOLDENBERG, I., & Ebel-Lam, A. Recruitment and Retention in the Canadian Armed Forces: Introduction. ON TRACK, 32, 4-15. DRDC-RDDC-2024-E240. Volume 32 - Operationalizing Reconstitution: Research Insights on Recruitment & Retention in the CAF | CDA Institute

<https://cdainstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ON-TRACK-ISSUE-32.pdf>

The papers in this volume of On Track provide important insights on the key factors, challenges, and enablers of military personnel recruitment and retention of Canadian Armed Forces.

2. GOLDENBERG, I., Chamberland, J., & Skomorovsky, A. Military-Civilian Personnel Integration and Collaboration: DND Civilians' Perspectives. Journal of Military, Veteran, and Family Health 8, Special Issue 1, 2024.

https://www.queensu.ca/cidp/sites/cidpwww/files/uploaded_files/jmvfh.2022.8.issue-s1.pdf

The special issue touches on two important aspects of diversity: DND/CAF personnel requirements and how to better achieve them, and the role culture plays in binding different sub-groups together as part of the same team. The CAF has embarked on a journey of culture change that will evolve over the long term. To this end, our contributing authors have identified specific initiatives and strategies that can contribute to improvement at the institutional level. In this short introduction, we provide additional background on why diversity is such an important consideration and how culture change can ultimately support greater diversity within the defence team. Ultimately, diversity needs to be fostered in a positive organizational culture, one characterized by dignity and respect, to realize its potential.

3. BERNDTSSON, J., GOLDENBERG, I., and VON HLATKY, S., Primacy of total defence forces in the 21st century. Euro-Atlantic Bulletin. Vol. 5 No. 2, 2024. ISSN 2712-5270

<http://en.euroatlantic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Primacy-of-total-defence-forces-in-the-21st-century-Berndtsson-Goldenberg-von-Hlatky-ENG.pdf>

Total defence, as a concept, combines and extends military and civil defence: defence goals are delivered through the combined efforts of military and civilian personnel, and in a state of war or emergency, all social institutions mobilize to defend the state. Total defence forces, led by a diverse workforce of defence and security professionals, are critical to both national defence and international security goals. Despite the often high levels of partnership, underlying differences among regular forces, reservists, defence civil servants, and contractors, affect the quality of the collaboration and,

ultimately, organizational and operational effectiveness. As defence ministries around the world recognize the importance of optimizing the employment and integration of civilian and military personnel, total defence force models are increasing in prominence.

4. LEE, J.E.C., Bennett, B., Bennett, N., Bouak, F., Goldenberg, I., Harrison, K., McCuaig-Edge, H., Quartana, P.J., Simms, A., Adler, A.B., Assessing Military Mental Health during the Pandemic: A Five Country Collaboration. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, (2024). Upcoming.

5. WADHAM Ben et al., No Women's Land: Australian Women Veterans' Experiences of the Culture of Military Service and Transition, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 21, no. 4: 479. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph21040479>

<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/21/4/479>

Women's experiences of military service and transition occur within a highly dominant masculinized culture. The vast majority of research on military veterans reflects men's experiences and needs. Women veterans' experiences, and therefore their transition support needs, are largely invisible. This study sought to understand the role and impact of gender in the context of the dominant masculinized culture on women veterans' experiences of military service and transition to civilian life. In-depth qualitative interviews with 22 Australian women veterans elicited four themes: (1) Fitting in a managing identity with the military; (2) Gender-based challenges in conforming to a masculinized culture—proving worthiness, assimilation, and survival strategies within that culture; (3) Women are valued less than men—consequences for women veterans, including misogyny, sexual harassment and assault, and system failures to recognize women's specific health needs and role as mothers; and (4) Separation and transition: being invisible as a woman veteran in the civilian world. Gendered military experiences can have long-term negative impacts on women veterans' mental and physical health, relationships, and identity due to a pervasive masculinized culture in which they remain largely invisible. This can create significant gender-based barriers to services and support for women veterans during their service, and it can also impede their transition support needs.

6. ATEŞ, B. (2024). Turkish Military Sociology: Exploring the Evolution of an Early Starter but Latecomer. *Armed Forces & Society*, 0(0).

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0095327X241246276>

This article explores the reasons for the late development of Turkish military sociology. Although the relationship between the Turkish military and society has some unique characteristics, it has received little attention from sociologists. The existing literature primarily focuses on the narrow field of civil-military relations conducted by political scientists and includes minimal sociological research on the military. Based on historical analysis using primary and secondary sources and interviews, this shortcoming is due to the politicization of sociology and even equating it with communism, the denial of research permits due to bureaucratic secrecy, the sacred position of the military in the eyes of society, and the partial apathy of Turkish sociologists. The institutionalization of Turkish military sociology after the 2016 coup attempt is promising, but restrictions on research permits remain challenging for its future. Building a solid military sociology literature without critically assessing the existing research would also be problematic.



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We hope that you enjoyed reading this issue of RC 01's newsletter.