Women Militants and Rebel Trajectory in Asymmetric Conflict

Meredith Loken, UW Ph.D Student, Political Science
Friday, September 29, 2017 - 1:30pm to 3:00pm
Olson Room (Gowen 1A)

Meredith Loken is a Ph.D candidate in Political Science at the University of Washington. She specializes in the study of international security, specifically examining the relationship between gender and political violence, terrorism, and insurgency. Her research examines variation in how women's conflict involvement - as participants or civilians - affects state and rebel behavior and reputation. Her dissertation, *Women to the Front: Female Militants in Asymmetric Conflict*, argues that female-inclusive rebels are more successful because women militants make insurgencies more effective and make them appear more legitimate. Both factors help acquire civilian support for rebellion. She uses an original cross-national dataset of female militancy in 147 insurgencies and examines gender in rebels' visual propaganda to make these arguments. Her other recent work explores why Western women join Daesh, why governments sanction sexual violence during war, and how women's wartime participation affects rape. Her research is published in *Security Studies* and *Feminist Media Studies* and is forthcoming in the *European Journal of International Security*. She is on the job market, so please come constructively critique her talk!

The format for this presentation will be a practice job talk. This is the first UWISC presentation of the academic year. Please note the start time is later than usual for this presentation.