

Abstract

Feminist theory in International Relations is usually considered to be a homogenous approach within the field, critical of mainstream IR theory. There are, however, various strands of feminist IR, differing in their methodologies as well as their epistemological and ontological underpinnings. This is well visible in the ongoing discussions amongst these strands, an issue I try to emphasize throughout. In my thesis, I present various feminist re-interpretations of conventional theories of International Relations. After providing an overview of these different strands, I reflect on traditional political philosophy and re-conceptualize these concepts via a specifically feminist lens. By addressing the current accepted understandings of IR's core concepts – the state, its place in the international system, war, sovereignty, and IPE, I reconsider them from three different viewpoints, based on their stance towards positivist methodology, epistemology and ontology. With the help of notions presented by and typical of feminism, as is the public/private divide, I re-view the familiar concepts to then portray them from a different point of view. Throughout my thesis, I place emphasis on the gendered aspects of the customary schemes, and with the help of the method of deconstruction aim to bring to light less frequent interpretations.