

Foreword

By Irina Goldenberg, Joelle Laplante & Marina Nuciari

We are both pleased and proud to put forward this second ERGOMAS issue of *Res Militaris*, related to the work of the association's vibrant Working Group (WG) on "Gender & the Military", led by Prof. M. Nuciari. Like the first volume on the same topic published in September 2015, this special issue was initiated and edited jointly by the three above-named ERGOMAS members.

The six articles collected in the volume provide research and analyses on topics central to gender integration within armed forces – an issue of significant import for most Western militaries in the current era.

The first, by Trond Svela Sand and Kari Fasting, examines Norwegian male non-commissioned officers' attitudes regarding women's participation and abilities in the armed forces. This analysis is particularly interesting given that Norwegian society is recognized as highly egalitarian and a model for other nations in terms of gender equality ; yet, the female representation in Norway's armed forces is still considered to be an area in need of improvement by Norwegian military leaders.

In the second article, Krystal Hachey and colleagues probe gender differences in the transition to retirement and civilian life of former military members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Given that most studies on life after service have focused on males, and in view of women's increasing and diversified roles in the armed forces, this analysis is both timely and important.

The third contribution, by Rosalie Arcala Hall, discusses the experiences of Muslim women in the Philippine military. In particular, the article dissects what it's like to be a double minority, from both the gender and ethnic minority perspectives, within a male and predominantly Christian army.

The fourth, by Swedish authors Annika Berg and Elin Bjarnegård, aims at studying one of the main objectives of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 focusing on the gender balance in UN peacekeeping missions. The importance of mission risk level as a potential explanation for low proportions of women in UN missions is examined by applying a horizontal analysis that distinguishes between military functions – deployed military observers and contingent troops.

In the last but one contribution, Dana Grosswirth Kachtan challenges the idea that the image of military masculinity is homogeneous. Applying intersectionality theory, she argues for additional categories that interact with gender in the formation of the combat soldier's identity. In particular, she examines the intertwined roles of ethnicity and gender

using a case study of two ethnically distinct infantry formations in the Israeli military, namely the Golani and the Paratroopers brigades.

The sixth and last article, authored by Margie Serrato, delineates the systemic problems that affect American servicewomen, including gender harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination and abusive military practices. The need for cultural change in the US armed forces is emphasized as the way by which to ameliorate these issues so that the America's military can rise to the gender challenge as a truly professional organization that represents both military and national values.

We hope you enjoy this second ERGOMAS special issue of *Res Militaris* !

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The EUROPEAN RESEARCH GROUP ON THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY (ERGOMAS) is an association of social scientists who study and analyze the relationship between the military and society, and related phenomena. ERGOMAS promotes empirically and theoretically oriented research cooperation and international collaboration. Joint transnational research and intercultural comparisons in thematically oriented interdisciplinary working groups constitute the core of ERGOMAS. Additional information about the association may be found on <http://www.ergomas.ch>.

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