

Conference Paper

Woman at War through a Postcolonial Lens: a blueprint for social critique and political imaginaries

May 2024

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Abstract

This paper examines Benedikt Erlingsson's (2018; 2018a) film *Woman at War* (Icelandic: "Kona fer í stríð") as an artifact with imprints of contemporary tendencies, and anthropological themes constituting a form of sociocultural commentary. I use a postcolonial lens to tease out certain aspects of the film pertaining to Nordic exceptionalism, postcolonialism, modernity, and hegemony. This allows me to explore how the relation to nature can serve as a technology of discipline (Schnepf, 2020) in the film. But also, as emancipatory resistance which I argue with examples, often takes place within or parallel to normative structures of power. In *Woman at War*, nature itself becomes a gray space. The overarching theoretical framework is informed by infrapolitics which entail minor acts of resistance to institutional pressures (Scott 1990; 2012). More precisely, infrapolitical mobilities as the act of reclaiming and subversion of mobility hindrances sometimes with the support of local populations, activists, lawyers, and other allies (Fradejas-García, & Loftsdóttir, 2024: 2). The analysis is grounded on selected scenes and intersects with themes pertaining to transnational corporations (TNCs) and the professional managerial class (PMC) within

globalization studies (Liu, 2020; Sklair, 1997; 2002; 2002a). But most notably, I draw parallels to similar interventions within contemporary Icelandic grassroots initiatives.



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Armando Garcia

This thesis builds on the overarching theoretical framework of Critical Internationalization Studies

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This paper examines research on police-minority relations in the Nordic countries, with a particular focus on Iceland, addressing underexplored themes in ethnic minorities' encounters with law enforcement. As part of an early-stage research project grounded in a phenomenological ethnographic framework, it presents a systematic review of literature on systemic biases, procedural justice, police gaze, and the intersectionality of identities in shaping perceptions of policing. Special attention is given to the interplay of race, class (e.g., social status), and gender (e.g., masculinities) in Iceland, situating local perceptions within broader Nordic and global conjunctures, and considering the possibility of a critical triangulation of these perceptions. While the Nordic countries are renowned for egalitarian values, critical scholarship reveals significant disparities in the policing of ethnic minorities. This review explores racial profiling, over-policing, the criminalization of migrants and refugees, and the influence of migration histories (e.g., colonial legacies), securitization policies, and political discourse in shaping societal perceptions of minority groups and racialized policing practices. Early preliminary findings indicate that factors such as residency status, class, and resources significantly shape policing perceptions in Iceland and other Nordic countries. Using an intersectional lens and postcolonial insights, this paper examines policing as an embodiment of state power, exploring how authority is enacted and negotiated in everyday encounters. It stresses the importance of centering minority perspectives and fostering equitable, community-engaged policing strategies. This work lays the foundation for future research on governance, identity, and power relations in multi-ethnic societies, advancing critical

discussions on policing and proposing possible theoretical frameworks for this line of inquiry.

Reform Proposal Non-European Student Work Permits

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April 2024

 Armando Garcia

The Icelandic government, and in particular the Minister of Justice, Mrs. Guðrún Hafsteinsdóttir and the Minister of Social Affairs and the Labour Market, Mr. Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, are encouraged to review the legislation surrounding work permits for students from outside of the...

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