



Gendered Wars, Gendered Memories

Feminist Conversations on War, Genocide and Political Violence

Edited by Ayşe Gül Altınay, Sabancı University, Turkey
and Andrea Pető, Central European University, Hungary

The twentieth century has been a century of wars, genocides and violent political conflict; a century of militarization and massive destruction. It has simultaneously been a century of feminist creativity and struggle worldwide, witnessing fundamental changes in the conceptions and everyday practices of gender and sexuality. What are some of the connections between these two seemingly disparate characteristics of the past century? And how do collective memories figure into these connections? Exploring the ways in which wars and their memories are gendered, this book contributes to the feminist search for new words and new methods in understanding the intricacies of war and memory.

From the Italian and Spanish Civil Wars to military regimes in Turkey and Greece, from the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust to the wars in Abkhazia, East Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan, former Yugoslavia, Israel and Palestine, the chapters in this book address a rare selection of contexts and geographies from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives.

In recent years, feminist scholarship has fundamentally changed the ways in which pasts, particularly violent pasts, have been conceptualized and narrated. Discussing the participation of women in war, sexual violence in times of conflict, the use of visual and dramatic representations in memory research, and the creative challenges to research and writing posed by feminist scholarship, *Gendered Wars, Gendered Memories* will appeal to scholars working at the intersection of military/war, memory, and gender studies, seeking to chart this emerging territory with 'feminist curiosity'.

For decades feminist historians have listened to stories of women narrating their experiences of war. This volume brilliantly shows us these narratives are part of a volatile memory, which forces us to reconsider any information that is narrated and to interrogate further meanings and possibilities. It is a major step in a field where 'truth' has become a particular and subjective truth.

Selma Leydesdorff, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

With international scope and scholarship, this volume documents – pointedly, painfully, perceptively – how modern war and genocide assault women and, at times, implicate them as perpetrators of atrocity. Never minimizing the wreckage, the contributors salvage what remains – archival records, crucial memories, insistent responses – the ingredients necessary to press men as well as women to advance the protest and resistance demanded by the book's tormenting and unforgettable findings.

John K. Roth, Claremont McKenna College, USA

This original and moving book pushes forward our current thinking and existing debates on the gendered memories of war and violence. Covering a range of different case studies and empirical contexts, the contributions offer timely and cutting-edge insights, creative methodologies and compelling analyses.

Nadje Al-Ali, SOAS, University of London, UK

In its transnational and interdisciplinary set of feminist engagements, this book fills a glaring gap in the study of how violent pasts are memorialized. It reorients the study of war, memory and gender by looking beyond lasting violence, to resistance, re-imagination and the future.

Marianne Hirsch, Columbia University, USA

Cover image: Cover photograph: *Lost City in Words (Kota yang hilang dalam kata)*, courtesy of Endang Lestari.

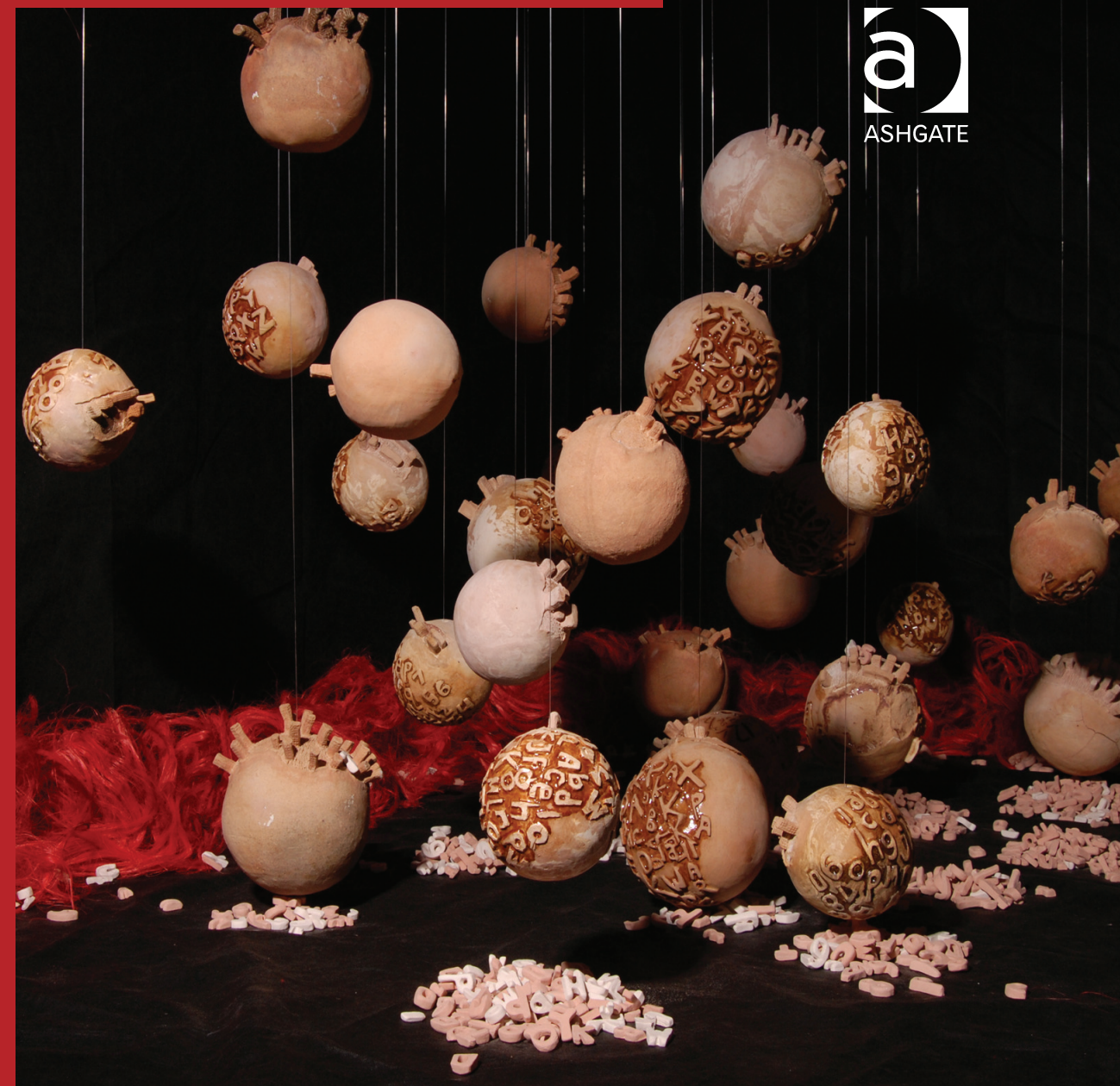


The Feminist Imagination - Europe and Beyond



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