

# Knowing Women: Translating Patriarchy in International Criminal Law

Dr. Doris Buss, Carleton University

Jeudi le 15 novembre / Thursday, November 15  
Salle/Room Guigues 103 12h00-13h30

This presentation will consider international war crimes courts and tribunals as sites for generating knowledge about the social contexts of conflict, particularly women's experiences of conflict. Dr. Buss' focus is the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia case of *Krstic* (2001, 2004), in which the Tribunal determined that Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica were a patriarchal society and this was instrumental in the commission of genocide. She focuses on the testimony of three female witnesses who testified about the pre, during and post-conflict lives of Bosnian Muslim women. In an analysis of these transcripts, she explores three themes: how international institutions come to know, and produce knowledge about women's lives; the role of 'social facts' in war crimes trials; and the importance of looking beyond the outcome of war crimes trials, to exploring the courtroom itself as generating legal knowledge about war crimes.

**Dr. Doris Buss** is an associate professor and Supervisor of the MA and PhD in Legal Studies in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University. She teaches and researches in the areas of international law and human rights, international criminal law, Women's human rights, feminist theory, and global social movements. She is the author (with Didi Herman) of *Globalizing Family Values: The International Politics of the Christian Right*, and editor (with Ambreena Manji), *International Law: Modern Feminist Approaches*. She has published several papers on the prosecution of sexual violence crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and recently collaborated on an edited volume entitled *Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict: International Agendas and African Contexts* (currently under review). She has also been working on a SSHRC-funded study of the Yugoslav and Rwanda war crimes tribunals, the use of expert testimony, and the production of identity.

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*The seminar will take place in English / Le séminaire se tiendra en anglais.*