

Lecture Series 2025: Feminist critiques of anti-gender movements

## **Anti-genderism in Russia's aggression against Ukraine.**

**Leandra Bias, University of Bern**

**Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 6.15-7.45 p.m**

Hörraum 101, Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is the first war led in the name of defending "traditional values". It is therefore also a war against a liberal gender order. As such, it is a powerful illustration of how anti-genderism should not just be thought of as transnational social movements or inherent in right-wing populism, but instead as part and parcel of state's foreign policy. Russia is furthermore an emblematic case of how anti-genderism acts as both a precursor to state-led violence abroad as well as its amplifier at home. Illustrative for this are laws, adopted since 2022 that ban "childfree propaganda" and declare LGBT an "international extremist movement".

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**Leandra Bias** is Advanced Postdoctoral scholar at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Bern and incoming SNSF Ambizione Fellow at the University of Fribourg. Her research examines how gender relates to political violence and (de-) democratization with a regional focus on Russia, Ukraine and Serbia. Her monograph with the working title "Under Authoritarian Eyes: Feminist Solidarity and Resistance in Russia and Serbia" is forthcoming with Oxford University Press in summer 2025.