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Creative methods in Critical Military Studies

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Creative methodologies in critical military studies (CMS) can “offer a process through which new realms of critical possibility can be opened up” in order to “produce a new space for thinking differently” about military organisations (Cree, 2023, p. xv). CMS scholars have taken up creative methodologies in a variety of ways, including theatre, dance, music and filmmaking (Cree, 2023), with the aim of catalyzing societal changes as relates to militaries, war, and violence. Decades of research also demonstrates how uniformed public services personnel often experience discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual assault as a result of sexualized and hypermasculine cultures (Eichler, 2016, Murray 2025, Taber, 2020, West & Antrobus, 2023). Less is known about the use of creative methodologies to specifically understand how the individual gendered experiences in uniformed public services are structurally interconnected with organizational cultures. In order to build on understandings of how creative methodologies can support new understandings of international studies to support critical change, this panel focuses on ongoing research as relates to 4 ongoing CMS research projects with military veterans, in Canada and the UK: voice work, expressive writing, participatory filmmaking, and participatory futures.

Track Classification: Critical Military Studies Working Group