

**University of Washington  
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**WAR RAPE, NATALITY,  
AND GENOCIDE**

**October 22, 2010  
Friday, 3:30-5:20 p.m.  
Savery Hall 264**



Although wars have a powerful impact on human existence, philosophers have not always given the problems of war the attention that they deserve. Critics even argue that some philosophers have unwittingly contributed to a culture of genocide, by giving legitimacy to the idea that some lives have more value than others. However, philosophy also can contribute to understanding war and how we represent it, by clarifying central concepts, by focusing on whose lives are given legitimacy, and by attending to issues of ethics and justice in response to war.

In her paper, Professor Schott addresses the concept of genocide and focuses specifically on how sexual violence in war, including rape and enforced impregnation, may be genocidal. She discusses Claudia Card's notion of social death in terms of harms within victim communities, and draws on Hannah Arendt's notion of natality, which underlies her notion of heterogeneity, to understand war rape, enforced impregnation and genocide as a political harm.

**Robin May Schott** is editor and co-author of the new book, *Birth, Death, and Femininity; Philosophies of Embodiment* (2010). Her other publications include *Feminist Philosophy and the Problem of Evil*, ed. (2007) and *Discovering Feminist Philosophy* (2003).

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