

Interview with Dr. Anessa Kimball and Dr. Stéfanie von Hlatky

This past May 2014, WIIS Canada brought its 7th Annual Workshop to the nation's capital – Ottawa! In partnership with the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) at Carleton University and The Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDPS) at Queens University, over 80 participants gathered for two very packed days to discuss *Canada and NATO: Capabilities and Priorities in an Uncertain Environment*. Expert panels, discussions, and roundtables dealt with important and topical issues, such as women and war in Afghanistan, NATO and Canada, careers in IR security and defence, gender and field research, alliance dynamics and military cooperation, and gender and field research.

WIIS Canada had the opportunity to sit down with co-organizers Dr. Anessa Kimball, assistant professor at Université Laval, and Dr. Stéfanie von Hlatky, assistant Professor at Queens University, for some inspiring insight on their involvement on the Workshop.



What was your inspiration for running the Workshop?

Anessa: My inspiration for this Workshop is my personal experiences. First, I had an excellent mentor in graduate school, and had many positive female role models who were committed to supporting female graduate students. Second, I had some unsettling experiences elsewhere in the academy where it was suggested some research areas or methods were not for women. These two experiences convinced me there was a need for a Workshop that mentors and encourages women to work in the field of international security, whatever their research focus.

What did you find to be the most beneficial aspects of the Workshop?

Stéfanie: The most beneficial feature of the Workshop is creating a space for younger generation of women in international security to share their research. Whenever I see a graduate student presenting for the first time at our WIIS Canada Workshop, I am really thrilled.

How was women's leadership represented in the Workshop?

Anessa: The role of women when it comes to international security is the central focus of our Workshop. Women as researchers, professors, soldiers, civil servants, government workers. This Workshop is led by women and it supports women.

Stéfanie: We had a tremendous amount of female leadership with our keynote speaker Cdt Charlotte Isaksson, the Allied Command Operations Gender Advisor at NATO.

What can WIIS Canada and WIIS Global expect for next year's Workshop?

Anessa: Next year we are bringing the Workshop further west to Kingston, ON at Queen's University. We have recruited a PhD student at Queen's to be the organizer. Our theme will be a bit broader as it will look at Foreign and Defence Policy.