12-10-2014

Gender, War, and Politics

Madeline Robinson
Chapman University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts

Part of the American Politics Commons, Defense and Security Studies Commons, Gender and Sexuality Commons, and the Military Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts/13

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Research Day Abstracts and Posters by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughin@chapman.edu.
**Gender, War, and Politics**  
Madeline Robinson  
Department of Political Science, Chapman University; Orange, California

### Introduction to Research
- This study explores how gender identity affects the attitudes of males and females towards war, the military, and different foreign policy tactics, such as diplomatic talks and bomb strikes.
- Over the past 100 years, women have been less supportive of every war than men have, including both World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War.
- Historically there is an accepted social belief that women are naturally less aggressive than men, and are therefore generally more opposed to violence and war.
- Also increasing is the gender gap over political party affiliation, with females moving farther to the left of the political spectrum than their male counterparts.

### Hypotheses:

**H 1:** Women are more likely than men to prefer less aggressive tactics when dealing with foreign nations (i.e. direct diplomatic talks compared to bombing development sites).

**H 2:** Women are less likely than men to support invading Iran with U.S. troops.

**H 3:** Women are more likely than men to feel cold towards the military, and political party affiliation will show similar ideological splits.

### Data

**H 1: Diplomacy versus Military Aggression**

Cross Tabulation Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**H 2: Support for Military Invasions**

Stop Iran from nuclear development by invading with U.S. troops.

Means Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female 2.29</th>
<th>Male 2.33</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**H 3: Military Feeling Thermometer: Gender and Political Party Affiliation**

Cross Tabulation Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Findings (Continued)

**H 2: Support for Military Invasions**

The means test measured the favoring of and opposition to invading Iran with U.S. troops based on the respondent’s gender. The closer to 1 the response was, the more in favor of invading the respondent was, and the closer to 3 the response was, the more opposed the respondent was to an invasion. This revealed that men were slightly more opposed to having U.S. troops invade Iran.

**H 3: Military Feeling Thermometer: Gender and Political Party Affiliation**

The cross tabulation test of the military feeling thermometer combined political party affiliation and gender to show how they affected feelings towards the military when joined together. Those who felt most cold towards the military were Republican males, and those who felt most warm towards the military were Democratic females. Democratic females and Republican males were also the most neutral groups towards the military.

### Expected Findings

**H 1:** Females would prefer diplomatic talks more than males, and would be more opposed to bombing development sites than males.

**H 2:** The mean of the females would be between 1 and 2, whereas the mean of the males would be between 2 and 3, meaning that females would be more opposed to a U.S. invasion.

**H 3:** Females would be lower on the scale than males, and Democrats would be lower on the scale than Republicans. When the factors were combined, Democratic females would be the group lowest on the scale and Republican males would be the highest on the scale.

### Findings

**H 1: Diplomacy versus Military Agression**

The most and the least aggressive options of dealing with Iran were compared by the favor and opposition to each option based on the answers of male and female respondents. Males were in much greater favor of using forceful tactics (bombing Iran) than females were; while the least aggressive option (diplomatic talks) showed little difference in opinions based on gender.