The book is clearly empirical, and presents huge sets of important and interesting data and other material; but in terms of the problems of collecting this type of material, and using it to understand women’s realities, there is less discussion. I find that this kind of methodological discussion is increasingly important. As we, as analysts and practitioners, face the challenges of this century, remembering how we go about understanding the world is certainly as important as the understanding we come to.

However, overall I found this book hugely interesting and enjoyable. Although it is aimed at students, I think it is useful for more experienced GAD analysts and practitioners to re-read texts such as this, to remind ourselves of the enormous amount of empirical knowledge and material that is out there, that stretches across so many different issues and contexts. Many of us can become ‘stuck’ in our own analytical traditions, and to be reminded of how others have built up such enormous experience and knowledge is salutary. As well as students of gender and development, it will be of interest to development practitioners all over the world.

© 2010, Dr Fenella Porter, Birkbeck College, University of London, UK, email: fenella.porter@btinternet.com

Farr, Vanessa, Henri Myrtinnen and Albrecht Schnabel (eds.)

*Sexed Pistols. The Gendered Impacts of Small Arms and Light Weapons*
Tokyo, Japan: United Nations University Press, 2009, ISBN: 978-92-808-1175-9, 461 pp.

*Sexed Pistols* draws on experience and research from around the world to look at the connections between gender, age, violence, and small arms in developing and developed countries. A clear and stated aim of the book is to enable policymakers and analysts to examine the ways in which prevailing ideas about masculinity and femininity support and encourage the misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in societies around the world.

The fact that, worldwide, over two thirds of these weapons are in civilian hands, gives some indication of the potential dangers they pose to men and women and the wider communities in which they live. Chapters include examples of perpetrators of violence using SALW – including those whose role is to provide protection and security, such as the police and armed forces – and non-state armed groups, but also employers, colleagues, family members, and intimate partners. While including the usual focus on gun-related fatalities and injuries, this book also highlights the way in which SALW are used to coerce, threaten, intimidate and subjugate. Case studies explore the specific impacts upon women in particular – such as sexual violence at gunpoint, rape as a weapon of war, intimidation at home, and as a threat that prevents a woman from leaving a partner who might be abusing them.
Through the approach of organising material into themes, rather than by geography, the editors draw out similarities, and allow for clearer comparison between contexts – from societies in conflict, those moving to a post-conflict phase, or others considered to be at peace, but which experience high levels of SALW-related violence. Examples include: sexualised violence; gender and small arms, based on experience from Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); gender, small arms and violence in fragmented societies, including Haiti, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste; the militarisation of the domestic sphere in conflict/post-conflict societies such as Northern Ireland, Israel, and South Africa; and lastly, gender, weapons collection, and small arms control in diverse contexts, ranging from Albania to Cambodia to Somalia.

The book acknowledges the complexities around SALW regulation and control, and the often-blurred line between illegal and legal weapons and their use. Although these weapons are overwhelmingly owned and used by men – including both state and non-state actors, and those possessing guns for leisure pursuits, or for self defence – the authors also address the complexities of the relationship between women and guns; how women are not only killed and injured by SALW, but also play other roles – sometimes as perpetrators of armed violence, or as encouragers of men in their use of guns, but also as peace activists and agents of change, addressing issues related to conflict and security.

The book emphasises the growing recognition that more accurate gender analysis leads to more effective disarmament initiatives, weapons control processes, and violence reduction in general. Chapters outline how an appreciation of the gender dimensions of conflict and violence has consequences for policy and practice. This includes the way awareness is raised; the design and funding of interventions; monitoring and evaluation of weapons control programmes; and in formulating long-term strategies to combat the global small arms crisis.

Given the sheer wealth and diversity of information contained in the book, the editors have successfully drawn together common strands built on consistent, clearly articulated, and well-substantiated arguments. Most contributions are based on both academic and field-based research, using case studies to deepen understanding of the realities behind the arguments made. The main strength of the book lies not only in the quality and utility of the writing, but also in the ability of the editors to help the reader navigate through multiple layers of experience and research, highlighting recommendations and conclusions, which are built upon by each contribution.

*Sexed Pistols* gives a compelling insight into the potential dangers of the proliferation and misuse of SALW, whether in societies in conflict or at peace, and is recommended reading for anyone interested in learning more about the multi-faceted and often surprising number of behaviours of both men and women with regard to SALW, and about the impact of these behaviours. Each chapter is written in an accessible style, and provides extensive references and selected recommended reading,
enabling the reader to develop their knowledge as they proceed through the book. *Sexed Pistols*, therefore, provides a very good introduction to the issues involved. For those more familiar with the subject matter, the book represents a useful overview of research and findings to date, and the specific detail given in the case studies would most certainly be helpful to scholars, development practitioners, and activists alike, along with policymakers, for whom the book’s recommendations for future research, policy formulation, and programme implementation make it particularly useful.

© 2010, Sarah Masters, Coordinator of the Women’s Network of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), website: www.iansa-women.org, email: women@iansa.org

**Lindio-McGovern, Ligaya and Isidor Wallimann (eds.)**

*Globalization and Third World Women: Exploitation, Coping and Resistance*

Farnham, UK and Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2009, ISBN 978-0-7546-7463-4, 228 pp.

This timely and engaging collection of essays provides a range of examples of Third World women’s responses to global processes of change in both the North and South. Ligaya Lindio-McGovern and Isidor Wallimann focus primarily on the economic aspects of globalisation, examining changes in production processes, labour markets and trade, and considering the gendered impacts of these changes, particularly for reproductive labour. In their introductory chapter, they effectively argue that globalisation has on the one hand resulted in the increased exploitation of poor Third World women but on the other, that examples can also be found of women showing tremendous determination in their coping strategies and in providing resistance to the dominant neo-liberal model of development. Their chapter offers a clear overview of the book, and makes apparent the linkages between the different empirical chapters. The case studies themselves cover a wide range of issues and geographical areas, including examples from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, although there is nothing from the Middle East. Issues addressed include migration, sex trafficking, land rights and food security, and questions around identity.

One of the important themes that emerges from the book is the way in which neo-liberalisation has created new forms of inequality, as well as exacerbating existing ones. One example of this is the emergence of regional inequalities as certain countries in a region develop at a greater speed than others. This is illustrated in Shireen Ally’s analysis of the ‘maid trade’ in southern Africa (Chapter 2). This debate has often been focused on South–North migration streams, but here Shireen Ally convincingly argues for the need to re-assess this and consider what is happening across regions. Women from countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana are moving to South Africa to fulfil the demand for domestic labour, but are at the same time creating a dual market in which South African domestic workers