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September 2021

Canadian Women in Peacekeeping: Opportunities, Constraints, Continuities, and Disruptions

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Citation of this paper:

biskupski-Mujanovic, sandra, "Canadian Women in Peacekeeping: Opportunities, Constraints, Continuities, and Disruptions" (2021). *Inspiring Minds – Showcasing Western’s Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 15.

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Canadian Women in Peacekeeping: Opportunities, Constraints, Continuities, and Disruptions
By Sandra Biskupski-Mujanovic

My doctoral research project identifies the potential and limitations of Canadian women's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) through 40 in-depth interviews conducted with Canadian women who have served in previous UNPKOs since the 1990s (for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti and South Sudan) and with peacekeepers who most recently served with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), established in 2013 to support the establishment of democratic political processes and stabilization in Mali. I chose to focus on this topic because women are currently very underrepresented on UNPKOs, constituting fewer than 5% of military contingents, which is far lower than the 15% target established by the UN. I expect my research to provide primary empirical evidence, which does not currently exist, about women's experiences in PKOs to improve policy aimed at increasing women's participation in UNPKOs and the Canadian Armed Forces.