Gender, Coloniality and Violence:

Doing Visual Content & Visual Discourse Analysis with MAXQDA

This project takes the **Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda** as a field to explore visual representations of '**Gender, Coloniality, and Violence**' and reflects on how these can shape policymaking in international interventions. To do that, it analyses images from the WPS agenda-related documents; this means to use what Pawels (2012) names as 'found images', being the researcher an 'image collector'.

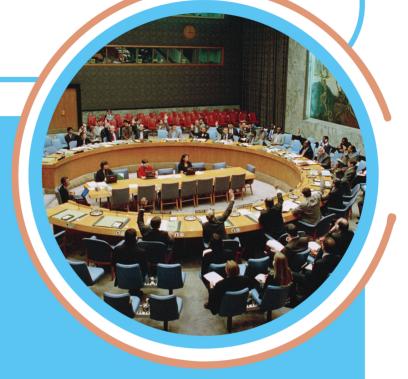
Methodologically, it uses **mixed methods**, though the 'Explanatory Sequential Design' (Creswell 2009), combining 'Visual Content Analysis' (quantitative) and 'Visual Discourse Analysis' (qualitative).

Quantitative
Follow up with

Visual Content Analysis
Visual Discourse Analysis



Coined within the UN Security Council, the WPS agenda is an international tool aimed to mainstream gender in peace and security.



The agenda is rooted in a set of **resolutions**, the pioneer **1325** (October 2000) and its nine sister resolutions, which resulted from the persistent work of civil society actors (mainly women).

Visual Content Analysis

This method works 'for engaging systematically with **large numbers of images**' (Rose, 2016). The project uses Parry (2020) 'set of stages' to structure the analysis of the visual content, looking for a systematic account of continuity and change patterns:

1. Theory

Parashar (2023): 'How do we understand and unpack **violence** itself using **feminist perspectives**, along with its myriad manifestations, complexities and impact?'

- Gender: normalisation of gendered myths that 'normalise' or 'exceptionalise' violence
- Coloniality: context history, violence justifications in the Global South and the violence in 'ereasures and silences'.
- 'Slow violence' (vs. spectacular violence), which understands that 'certain kinds of violence are underreported'.

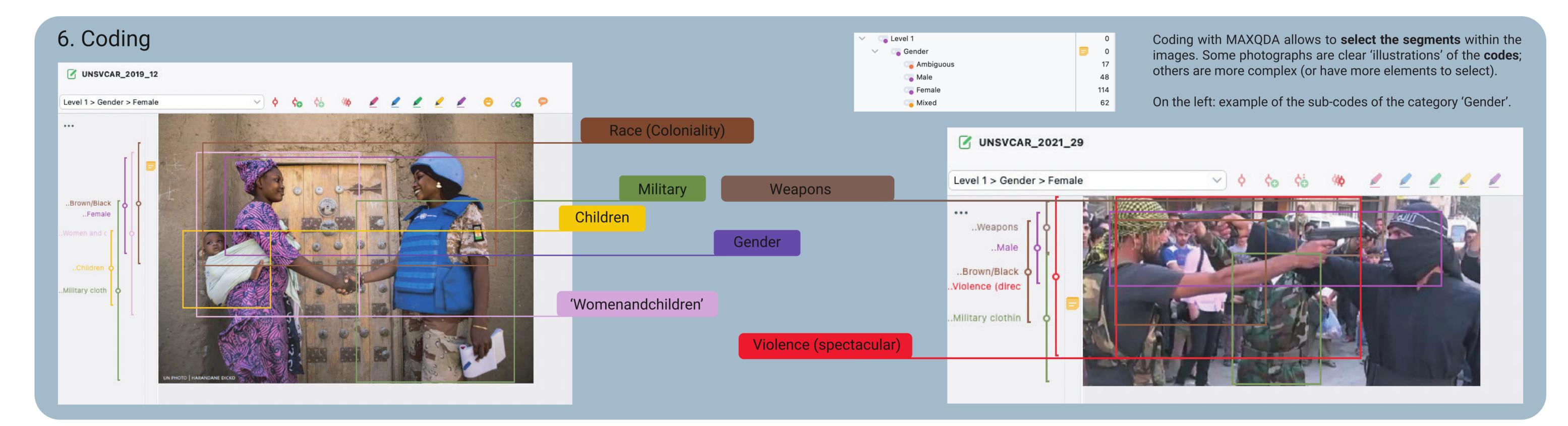
2. Concepts Gender Coloniality (Race) Violence



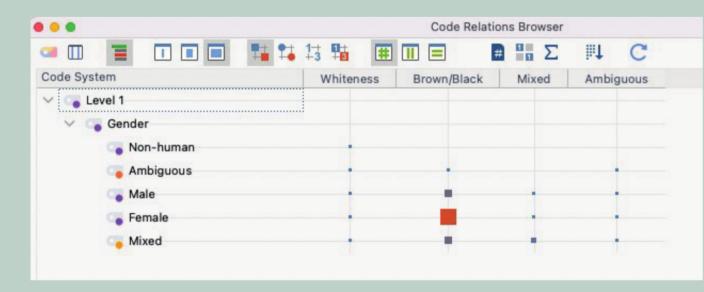
4. Sampling Images UN Secretary General Annual Reports on SVC UNSVCAR_2016_images UNSVCAR_2017_images UNSVCAR_2018_images UNSVCAR_2019_images UNSVCAR_2020_images UNSVCAR_2021_images UNSVCAR_2021_images UNSVCAR_2022_images UNSVCAR_2023_images

The media materials explored are the images from the UN Annual Reports on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVC). I created a folder in MAXQDA documents, named 'Images UN Secretary General Annual Reports on SVC', with eight different folders corresponding to each year of publication (e.g. UNSVCAR_2016_images), which contain the screenshots of the images of the Annual Reports images, enumerated according to their order of appearance.

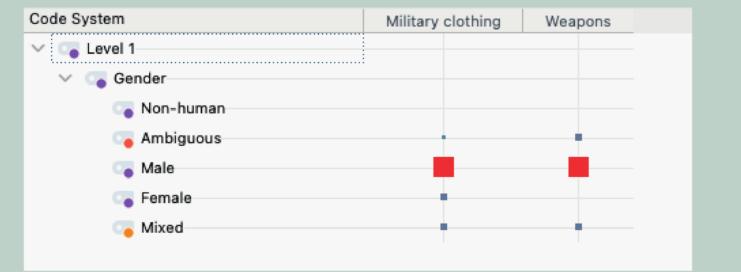
5. Codebook Construction



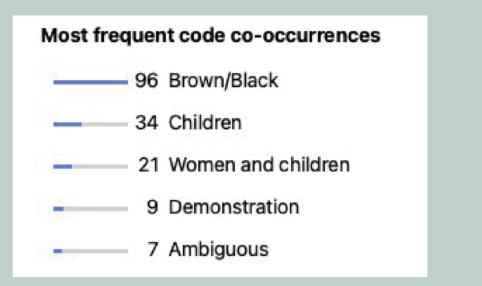
7. Reporting the results



Visual Tool 'Code Relations Browser': 'the most visible' subject are 'brown/black female'.



Visual Tool 'Code Relations Browser': men are more visually represented with military clothing and guns.

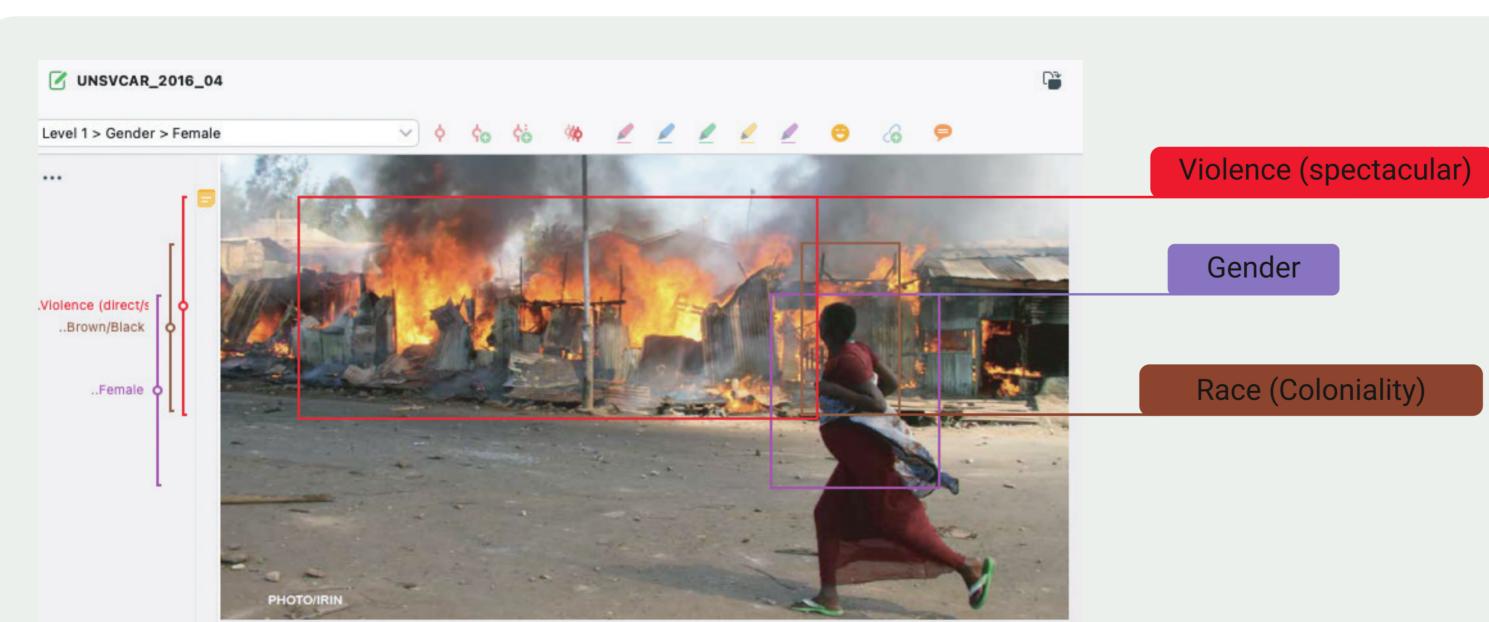


'Code Explorer' function to look at the 'most frequent code co-occurrences' of 'female' code.

The Visual Content Analysis is still 'work in progress' and I would like to explore the potential of MAXQDA analytical tools. For instance, code frequencies (to answer, for example, if the presence of military clothing has increased over time).

As Lutz and Collins (1993) underscore, this method 'is not only to present tables of aggregated numerical data but also to cross-tabulate the various aspects to demonstrate the patterns of visualization (...)'.

Visual Discourse Analysis



[Section Work in Progress: on the way to discover the potential of MAXQDA when doing the Visual Discourse Analysis]

Quantitative content analysis 'is a significant part of the research design (but rarely the sole method). There are some limitations that the method presents, which can be solved by the **combination** of quantitative content analysis with another research technique. In this project, I use visual discourse analysis, taking as a referense Hansen et al (2021).

Visual discourse analysis comes from the discourse analysis tradition, rooted in linguistics. As Rose (2016) notes, 'it is possible to think of visuality as a sort of discourse too', which makes 'certain things visible in particular ways, and other things unseeable'.

This is guided by the methodology presented by Åhäll and Borg (2013), who look at 'how subject identities are constituted through a combination of predication, presupposition and subject-positioning'; these three categories are helpful in comprehending the discursive construction of subjects, objects, and behaviours.

- **Predication**: 'endows a subject with qualities, attributes or properties; it affirms its identity'.
- **Presupposition**: 'background knowledge in place when reading a text, written, verbal, or visual.
- **Subject-positioning**: 'reinforces certain properties of the subject by positioning (such) subject in relation to other subjects and objects'.

By showing how subjects and objects are discursively produced, these three methodological concepts can inform a discourse analysis by exposing how certain practices are enabled and others disabled (Åhäll and Borg, 2013).

Bibliography:

Lene Hansen, Rebecca Adler-Nissen, and Katrine Emilie Andersen, 'The Visual International Politics of the European Refugee Crisis: Tragedy, Humanitarianism, Borders', Cooperation and Conflict 56, no. 4 (December 2021)

John W. Creswell and J. David Creswell, Research Design, 3rd ed. (Sage Publications Inc., 2009)

Katy Parry, 'Quantitative Content Analysis of the Visual', in The SAGE Handbook of Visual Research Methods, ed. Luc Pawels and Dawn Mannay, 2nd ed. (SAGE Publications, Inc, 2020).

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MAXQDA & Visual Methods: Work-in-Progress questions

Visual methods: 'the use of visual materials of some kind [e.g. images, photography, video, sketches] (...) as a means of exploring an aspect of social life Rose (2016); in this project, I use photographs.

- ¿? How to improve the codes selection in images (e.g. within an image I can't select inside a selected segment; challenges when coding images with multiple subjects)?
- lenges when coding images with multiple subjects)?

 ¿? How to integrate **AI tools** for 'visual recognition of photographs (computer vision)' or 'reverse image searchers'?
- ¿? How to integrate Al tools for visual recognition of photographs (computer vis
 ¿? How to use MAXQDA with an Adobe software (like Photoshop or Illustrator)?

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