

# FEMINIST WAR GAMES?

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A GAME JAM FROM ReFIG  
NOVEMBER 28th OCAD  
UNIVERSITY, TORONTO

Can a feminist war game exist? War, traditionally the sole purview of men, is an essential site for asking critical questions about masculinist systems, objectifying economies and mediated representations, especially since subjects, objects and agents are all instruments within the ideological narratives that frame the brutal history of armed conflict. Simply including female “warrior” characters in a war game, for example, continues to normalize the mechanism of war while extending its “inclusiveness” to groups that have traditionally been marginalized and victimized by it. However, prototyping complex intersections between mechanisms of war, digital game narrativities, and inclusive feminist values suggests that feminist discourses can be used to *denaturalize and reframe narratives of war in spaces of programmed play*.

The aims of this game jam are to

- **assert** feminism as a mode of critique through game designs that will fundamentally question war's economies, mechanisms and narratives.
- **confront** habits of representation
- **introduce** feminist values into design processes
- **establish** a foundational network of experimentation for future designers to build upon.

We invite makers interested in exploring the many possibilities of a “feminist war game” to a 1-day game jam!

**Date:** Saturday November 28th

**Place:** OCAD University, 230 Richmond St W, Toronto

**Time:** 10am-8pm

If you are interested in taking part please email us with you name, contact email, if you will be bringing your own computer/software, and preference if you would like to work in a team or alone at: [refigames@gmail.com](mailto:refigames@gmail.com)

**\*\* This event welcomes and advocates for the presence and contributions of all people regardless of their gender, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, culture, abilities, ethnic origin, marital status, nationality, race, religion, language, disciplinary background, or socioeconomic status.\*\*\***