

Example of political realism critical thinking

[Sociology](#), [Feminism](#)



J. Ann Tickner: Hans Morgenthau's principles of political realism: a feminist reformulation

J. Ann Tickner's article provides an interesting insight into the feminist aspects of political realism. Particularly relevant are the criticisms of Morgenthau's principles. However, despite the article containing intelligent and well thought out arguments, the formal writing style may serve to put many people off.

Referring to Morgenthau's portrayal of the international system, Tickner claims that it is, " a partial description of international politics because it is based on assumptions about human nature that are partial and that privilege masculinity" (Tickner).

Tickner points out that masculinity and femininity are socially constructed and are not based on biological factors, and that Morgenthau's reference to masculinity hinders his argument. This is certainly an interesting and seemingly valid point, as is the notion that assumptions cannot be made about human nature. It is commonly believed that all people are different and human nature is anything but generic. In this way, Tickner is right to query Morgenthau's theory, as his generalisations could radically interfere with his perspective on larger issues.

Overall, Tickner's piece was well thought out and written. However, the style of writing is not that accessible to a wide audience. Much of the comments could be difficult for the general public to understand; in fact, a great deal of existing knowledge about the subject is required for a reader to fully grasp the piece. Nonetheless, Tickner addresses issues with confidence and conviction, encouraging the reader to adopt the views which they are

reading.

Tickner's writing touches on some interesting points, in particular the dangers of casting assumptions on human behaviour, and the concept of masculinity as socially constructed. However, the content is not offered a style which grants the subject justice.