

Rethinking IR and IPE Research
Global Political Economy and Multilateral Institutions Research Cluster Workshop
25 March 2019
10am-1pm
Balsillie School of International Affairs, Room 1-23

This workshop on Rethinking International Relations and International Political Economy Research aims to discuss methodologies, ontologies and epistemologies that converse with and challenge mainstream approaches to International Relations and IPE research.

Registration is limited to 25 participants.

Panel 1, 10am-11.20am

Moderator: Derek Hall

Beyond Eurocentric IPE history: the non-Listian origins of East Asian neomercantilism

Eric Helleiner, University of Waterloo

In describing the origins of neomercantilist thought, IPE literature focuses heavily on the ideas of Friedrich List and their global diffusion in the 19th and 20th centuries. The East Asian region is usually cited as one where Listian ideas had particularly strong impact, helping to give rise to the East Asian developmental state. This presentation calls into question that story, highlighting the local origins of neomercantilist thought in the region and the need to transcend Eurocentric IPE intellectual history.

Eric Helleiner is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. His most recent books include: *Governing the World's Biggest Market: The Politics of Derivatives Regulation After the 2008 Crisis* (Oxford, 2018) (edited with Stefano Pagliari and Irene Spagna), *Forgotten Foundations of Bretton Woods* (Cornell, 2014), *The Status Quo Crisis* (Oxford, 2014), and *The Great Wall of Money: Politics and Power in China's International Monetary Relations* (Cornell, 2014) (edited with Jonathan Kirshner).

What Andean Philosophy Can Teach Us about Ontology in IR

Tamara Ann Trowsell, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador

It is difficult to see from within how the contours of our IR fishbowl afford certain conceptual and theoretical possibilities and disallow others. Toward this end, this paper responds to two questions: What can Andean Philosophy teach us about how we understand the world within IR and how this affects the kind of knowledge that we are able to produce? Then, what does Andean Philosophy teach us about how we treat ontology itself in IR? Through this discussion we will be able to get a glimpse of how these parameters in general affect the potential breadth of debates and responses within the discipline.

Tamara Trowsell is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador. Her field research in development, conservation and culture in



Ecuador led to her interest in the impact of Andean cosmovisions on the results of implemented projects. Since then, she has used Andean Philosophy to explore the implications of the typically embraced ontological suppositions about existence on how we understand conflict, peace, difference and international relations in the discipline.

Identity, Regime Change and Ontological Security

Edelgard Mahant, York University

“Ontological security”, a phrase coined by constructivists, implies that a state’s sense of national identity is as or more important than its physical characteristics in shaping its foreign policy. But what happens to foreign policy when that sense of identity changes as the result of a revolution or regime change so extreme that the previous national identity no longer holds? Using the example of South Africa after the end of apartheid, this article examines the attempts by the leaders of post-apartheid governments to create a new national identity, based on South Africa’s status as a democratic country and as a country whose destiny is in Africa. This paper argues that the governments succeeded in establishing the beginnings of the second but not the first of these new identities and thus that the concept of ontological security is useful for tracing the changes in foreign policy that often accompany a change in regime. The study of this process constitutes a new application of the concept of ontological security.

Edelgard Mahant is Professor emerita at York University's Glendon College, where she was Head of Department for Political Science from 1994 to 2006. Her primary research interests are European integration and foreign policy analysis. She has published widely in both fields. She has also taught at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Baptist University in Hong Kong, the Institut d'Etudes politiques in Rennes, France and the University of Botswana.

Panel 2 11.30-12.50

Moderator: Cheryl Martens

Considering the Environment in the Future of Feminist IPE

Andrea M. Collins, University of Waterloo

Feminist IPE research has long produced important insights for the broader fields of IR and IPE, raising key questions about gender and global capitalism, shifts in consumption, how gender operates in global supply chains, and the nature of feminist resistance throughout the world. As part of this work, feminist IPE has highlighted the gendered politics of the everyday, and its implications for global economic processes. However, all of this work is firmly embedded within a broader ecological context: The impacts of endless growth on the biosphere, how consumption patterns drive degradation, our everyday habits and their environmental impacts. Moreover, feminist political ecology and food studies scholars have shown us that decision-making about the environment and resources is not just political but gendered as well. This presentation highlights key contemporary contributions of feminist IPE



and asks where there may be potential to make connections between the ontologies of feminist IPE within the broader context of environmental and resource issues.

Andrea M. Collins is Assistant Professor in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo. Her research focuses on gender and the global political economy of food. Her research has been published in *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Global Governance*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, and *Globalizations*.

Sociology as critique. The methodology of critically analysing structures of power in global governance

Catherine Goetze, University of Tasmania

Sociological approaches have become an important vehicle of critique in International Relations. Inspired by critical social philosophy (Michel Foucault, Claude Lefort, Jacques Derrida etc.) many IR scholars have taken a new look at the central concept of IR, power. However, few have used sociological methods in their analysis, commonly remaining on the level of discourse analysis and ideological critique (in a Mannheimerian understanding of Ideology). In my presentation I want to discuss the worth of sociological methods, including quantitative methods, as means of critically dissecting power structures. Drawing on Pierre Bourdieu's 'thinking tools' and conceptualization of the reflexive and critical construction of research objects I will discuss how methods like quantitative analyses of biographical and life course data, of employment and human resource data and prosopography can be used to dissect patterns of power in global governance.

Dr. Catherine Goetze is Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Head of Discipline of Politics and IR at the University of Tasmania. Her research is focused on the sociology of globalisation. Her most recent major publication 'The Distinction of Peace' (University of Michigan Press, 2017) presents a social analysis of the civilian staff in peacebuilding missions.

The state of methodology in International Studies and International Relations postgraduate teaching in South America

Raul Salgado Espinoza and Ernesto Vivares, FLACSO-Ecuador

The concept of a Global International Relations has recently become positioned within the debate about the future of the discipline as an opportunity to include a variety of IR contributions coming from a wide range countries. According to this trend, three perspectives are central to the debate: The US American, the Eurocentric and the Global IR. This paper presents the argument that South American International Relations teaching and research at postgraduate level has enabled the discipline to become a well-positioned field of study in the region. International Studies or IR as a discipline has developed a South American identity consisting of diverse, pluralistic and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and research, which fit into the methodological and theoretical frameworks of a Global IR. To develop this argument, the paper makes use of elements of relational theory and relational cognition to identify links and identification patterns of South American IR in relation to the other IR

tendencies. It draws on qualitative analysis of syllabi and curricula, a survey concerning the use of methodology for teaching and research at postgraduate level. It also draws on a qualitative content analysis of the use of methodology of 800 papers published between 2000-2018, retrieved from the Latin American data bases of CLACSO, REDALYC and SCIELO.

Raul Salgado has a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Birmingham; a Postgraduate degree in Education from the Metropolitan University of Manchester and a Master's degree in Political Science, Philosophy and Ibero-Romanistics from the University of Bonn. He is currently a research professor and responsible for the MA in International Relations (IR) at the Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO) Ecuador. His research and publications focus on teaching, learning and methodology for IR within Latin America, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy with an emphasis on Latin America and the role of small States in regional and global institutions.

Moderators:

Derek Hall is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier. His main research interests are in international political economy, Japanese politics, the political economy of East and Southeast Asia, the history of capitalism, and the political economy of food, land and agriculture, especially in the South. He is the author of [Land](#) (Polity, 2013) and [Powers of Exclusion: Land Dilemmas in Southeast Asia](#) (National University of Singapore Press and University of Hawai'i Press, 2011, co-authored with Philip Hirsch and Tania Murray Li). He has been a visiting researcher at the Institute for Social Science at the University of Tokyo on several occasions, and his research has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation. In 2009-10 he was an S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley.

Cheryl Martens is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of San Francisco Quito, Adjunct Professor in the Social Sciences Doctoral Program at the University of Cuyo, Argentina and was a visiting researcher at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in 2018. Her research interests include the international political economy and sociology of communication and technology, migration and feminist methodology. Recent publications include 'Questioning Technology in South America: Ecuador's FLOK Society Project and Andrew Feenberg's Technical Politics' in *Thesis Eleven* (2017) and *Strategies for Media Reform: International Perspectives* with Des Freedman, Jonathan Obar and Robert W. McChesney (Fordham University Press, 2016) and *The International Political Economy of Communication: Media and Power in South America* with Ernesto Vivares and Robert W. McChesney (Palgrave MacMillan, 2014).