

NOTE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR (2015-2016)

After our very successful New Orleans Convention we are now with much excitement and enthusiasm moving to plan for the GDS proposals for the ISA 2016 Convention in Atlanta. Those of you who attended the New Orleans conference will probably agree that the GDS suite of panels was, once again, an outstanding presence, and it is down to all of us to build on this success for the next round.

Please have a look at the ISA's recent call for papers (here is the link in case you missed it: <http://www.isanet.org/Conferences/Atlanta-2016/Call>). The Conference Theme "Exploring Peace" should provide ample resonance for core concerns in and around our Section (of course, we are not confined to that theme!) That said, the Program Chairs have made it clear to us that the theme is to be interpreted broadly. If a panel you are thinking about is a potential fit for the theme, it can be co-sponsored between GDS and the Convention Theme allocation; just one more way to increase GDS' presence at the conference!!!

Consider putting together Panels for the Atlanta Convention to be sponsored by the GDS!!! (See current CFPs below.) While we have been able to 'construct' great panels from individual papers, we are faring, in general, much better with well-planned and cohesive panel submissions. **Please make GDS your first choice for sponsoring your submissions!!**

Please also use your networks to invite others who may not be members of GDS (yet!) to submit panel proposals (or papers) for sponsorship by our Section (and remind them that signing up to the GDS as a member would be great, too 😊).

CALL FOR PROPOSALS, ISA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2016, ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

If you are interested in participating in any one of the five panels below, please email: Heloise Weber (h.weber@uq.edu.au) by Monday May 25th. Looking forward to hearing from you! With thanks, Heloise

(1) The Haitian Revolution: On Struggles for Peace and Justice

The Haitian Revolution must be remembered for its distinctive and formative contribution to struggles over peace and justice. Peace without justice means little: struggles against injustice and for more just and humane social and political were at the core of the Haitian revolution. The Haitian constitution was the first to recognition the equal rights of all human beings, especially the most marginalised. This panel aims to firmly put on the map what we can learn about questions of 'peace and justice' from the Haitian Revolution and Haiti's struggles in development.

(2) Liberal Peace/Liberal Violence

The "Liberal Peace" thesis informs contemporary social and political organizations and institutions of global governance and development. It is deployed as an analytic as well as set of prescriptions for development and progress. However, the liberal peace thesis is premised on abstractions of social and political relations, and denies the intrinsic linkages it has with the violence and inequalities integral to its very framework. This panel investigates the problems associated with the underlining assumptions and theoretical premises of the Liberal Peace Thesis

and its consequences. Specific case examples are engaged to explicate and substantiate the critical engagement.

(3) Human Rights and Political Struggles: Rethinking narratives of peace and (in)justice

Struggles for rights have been central to the history of the global politics and development. Yet, the Human Rights framework as institutionalised does not straightforwardly correspond with the promises of justice and “rights”. Indeed, it is possible to argue, following critical legal scholars/political theorists, that the Human Rights framework is implicated in ‘silencing human rights’ and ‘muting the voices of the suffering’. This panel seeks to critically explore struggles for rights in world politics, not only but also in relation to, constrictions that the established Human Rights framework pose for such struggles.

(4) On “Concerning Violence”: World Political Analysis with Fanon?

For Fanon, the “huge task of reintroducing humankind to the world” would depend on the “complete calling in question the colonial situation”. Over 50 years on, there is renewed interest in Fanon’s work, expressed lately also in the context of wide acclaim won by the 2014 documentary on African independence movements, “Concerning Violence”. The papers on this panel probe the contemporary relevance of Fanon’s analysis of the task of decolonization, and the room he makes for considering violence in both contexts, the establishment and maintenance of colonizing power on the one hand, and the successful contestation of that power on the other. What bearing does Fanon’s “task of reintroducing humankind to the world” have on violence in contemporary world politics?

We welcome submissions from any angle, context, or set of concerns engaging with this broad theme.

(5) The “Land”-Question in the Politics of Development

One of the central institutional and practical sites of the modern development project is ‘land’. This panel brings together research engaging with questions directed at competing conceptions of title, cultivation, use, and change in relations to and through “land”. In this context, participants explore for instance potential and limitations of political discourses over land-rights, analyze intersections with old and emerging registers of political ecology, and engage with questions of indigeneity, title, and linkages between land, identities and identifications. Among the aims of the panel is to return the central question of land more prominently to contemporary development analysis by emphasizing the multiple ways in which land, in the final analysis, *sustains* development.

We welcome any submissions speaking to any aspect raised in this abstract.

PANEL: Early Modern Global Encounters: An Alternative History of International Relations

The conventional account of the history of international relations starts with the emergence of the Westphalian state system in 1648 and its expansion from Europe to the rest of the world concomitant with the rise of Europe. This account has increasingly been criticized as Eurocentric and has led to the exploration and study of alternative histories of international relations. In light of this critique, this panel seeks to contribute to critical historiographical efforts regarding the

history of international relations and the 'universal world history' by exploring early modern global historical encounters and entanglements. This panel welcomes empirical papers that study on the micro- and/or meso-level of analysis or the interaction between the micro-, meso- and/or macro- levels – instead of solely a structural or macro-level of analysis – the historical processes of entanglements or interactions between two or more entities, actors, and/or empires in the period of late medievalism (1400s) to the beginnings of the early 19th century. Paper givers are also encouraged to contribute – through their empirical studies of historical processes of entanglements – to the conceptualization of historical encounters and how to study them without falling into Eurocentric traps. Therefore, papers are welcomed that empirically contribute to an alternative history of international relations, but also make through their empirical studies theoretical or conceptual contributions regarding the study of historical processes of encounters and entanglements. Finally, the panel also welcomes empirical papers that challenge through their study of a particular historical entanglement the understanding of certain concepts that are prevalent in the field of International Relations (IR) or international relations theory, such as anarchy, the state, sovereignty, power, international law, war, peace and so on.

Please send your abstract (max. 200 words) by May 15, 2015 to a.arian@rug.nl . For more information about the organization and venue of the conference, please visit the website at <http://www.isanet.org/Conferences/Atlanta-2016> .

PANEL: New dynamics of emerging powers in a changing world order: A real transition or an academic fad?

Over the last decades, emerging powers have had an increasing impact on world politics, with consequences on security, environmental and economic issues. As a result of such changes, these countries have gained prominence in international organisations, regimes and/or forums around such issues, as well as set up some formal and informal collective initiatives – like the BRICS (and its New Development Bank), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SOC), BASIC, and so forth. In such processes, it is possible to notice both the emergence of some convergence as well as divergence interactions between emerging and traditional powers and amongst the emerging powers themselves, with important consequences to the role of the emerging powers in the contemporary world order. Hence, the panel proposal is to discuss, critically, both processes, contributing in this sense to understanding the complex process of emerging powers' rising. Non exhaustive examples of sub-issues that can be submitted to the panel are: (i) (trans)formation of multilateral spaces of negotiation and interaction for the emerging and traditional powers; (ii) regional interactions and the impact and relevance of the emerging powers on such interactions; (iii) south-south cooperation and its potentials and limits to promote transformation in the world order.

Please send paper proposals to Leonardo Ramos, Lecturer in International Relations, PUC Minas – Brazil at lcsramos@yahoo.com.br

PANEL: The postcolonial or the pluriverse? Conversations between postcolonial and decolonial thinking

Subaltern historiography has drawn considerable attention to emphasizing the "poetry" of history as a counter-point to the "prose" of statist World-History (Guha 1997, 2002). Efforts to "provincialize" Europe have sought to situate the modern imperial metropolises as one part among many in the uni-versal shared world. Alternatively, decolonial scholarship has sought to

de-link from theoretical models that are ontologically invested in universality and modernity. Theory building in the decolonial tradition is arguably less interested in rebalancing a single modern conception of the world, and more interested in building new theoretical ways of understanding the many "verses" that together constitute the pluriverse (Mignolo 2011; Dussel 1995). This roundtable will facilitate a conversation between scholars working within either or both of the postcolonial and decolonial traditions on a few targeted areas of overlapping interest with a view to arriving at how these two important approaches might best interact. Rather than delivering a standard academic paper on the topic, guiding questions will be developed by the co-conveners that panelists will be asked to speak to. It will likely take the form of 3 - 4 questions on themes related to modernity, indigeneity, the coloniality of the state, political ontology, etc. **Interested participants should send a 2 - 300 word provocation to Ajay Parasram (ajay.parasram@carleton.ca) and Cristina Rojas(cristina.rojas@carleton.ca)**

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS, CALLS (and other notices)

Gregynog Ideas Lab IV

The fourth Gregynog Ideas Lab will take place from 13-18 July 2015. It provides a unique opportunity for graduate students and academics working in international politics from a range of critical, postcolonial, feminist, post-structural and psychoanalytic traditions to re-examine their own work and meet new people. An open space for thinking and generating new ideas.

Further details available from <http://gregynog.blogspot.com/>

Call for Participation in GDS

Over the summer, we will be working on the process for our inaugural ISA-GDS Graduate Student Paper Prize. We welcome participation from the GDS membership, and the sharing of information regarding how similar prizes are administered. Please contact Ami V. Shah at shah@plu.edu

MA Postcolonial Politics

Applications are welcome for the Masters programme in Postcolonial Politics at Aberystwyth University. This very successful one-year MA programme, one of the very first in the field, offers a core module that covers the range of postcolonial thought and its uptake in IR. Relevant optional modules next year cover Islam and Modernity, Gender and Race in Latin America, and International Communications in Asia-Pacific as well as Critical Security Studies and Politics, Media and Performance. Students also choose from the wide range of other modules on offer in the department.

Further details: <http://courses.aber.ac.uk/postgraduate/postcolonial-politics-masters/> and <https://postcolonialpoliticsmasters.wordpress.com/>

Full Professorship in Development Studies, University Of Helsinki

The deadline for applications is short – i.e.1 June 2015. The post would begin on 1 January 2016 and is a full time, full professorship position.

More information please see the call for applications which may be accessed at:

<https://university.helsinki.fi/en/open-positions> (click the link to Faculty of Social Sciences).

Enquiries can be sent to Barry Gills, Professor of Development Studies, University of Helsinki, barry.gills@helsinki.fi

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

BOOKS

Edkins, Jenny. 2015. *Face Politics*. London: Routledge. For further details, see: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415672184/>

Park, Susan and Jonathan R. Strand, editors. 2015 *Global Economic Governance and the Development Practices of the Multilateral Development Banks*. London: Routledge. For further details, see: <http://www.tandf.net/books/details/9781138827127/>

Roncallo, Alejandra. 2014. *The Political Economy of Space in the Americas: The New Pax Americana*. London: Routledge. For further details, see: <http://www.tandf.net/books/details/9780415671545/>

Taylor, Marcus. 2014. *The Political Ecology of Climate Change Adaptation: Livelihoods, Agrarian Change and the Conflicts of Development*. London: Earthscan, Routledge. For further details, see: <http://www.taylorandfrancis.com/books/details/9780415703819/>

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Rojas, Cristina. 2015. 'The place of the social at the World Bank (1949-1981): Mingling race, nation and knowledge.' *Global Social Policy*, Vol. 15 (1), 23–39. <http://gsp.sagepub.com/content/15/1/23.full.pdf?ijkey=tNkic3kaeQFPKsa&keytype=finite>

Strand, Jonathan R. and Tina M. Zappile. 2015. 'Always Vote for Principle, Though You May Vote Alone: United States Political Support for Multilateral Development Loans, 2004-2011.' *World Development* 72: 224-239. http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2243939

NOTICE OF ON-GOING PROJECTS

1KidProject is a newly registered local NGO in which my humble self is one of the founding members, volunteer as well as member of the Board of Directors. The idea is to raise and sponsor a child through primary education with just 5,000.00 NGN less than \$40.00 per year based on our estimates. We therefore regularly raise funds among ourselves, families and friends, and other well-meaning individuals and organizations to provide development intervention projects in the area of education, water and sanitation particularly to the socially abandoned, forgotten and excluded rural dwellers in the remotest parts of Federal Capital Territory [FCT] Abuja Nigeria. The websites of the organization is currently under development. See pictures below.

For further information contact: Ruth Bamidele (rumikdanem@gmail.com)



Picture 1



Picture 2

Picture 1 The children in the pictures were some of those identified by the '1Kid Project' who have never been to school in their lives though they are all interested in being educated. The project therefore after sensitizing their parents on the importance of educating their children, registered them in the available schools nearest to their villages, provided them with school uniforms, sandals, bags, books and paid their registration fees to keep them in school and give them a hope for brighter future.

Picture 2 Shows my humble self, the founder, a woman volunteer/teacher in the area with some parents and children before they were kitted with the school uniforms and other materials. It also shows in the pictures features of the communities where the children live with no elements of civilization or development in this 21 Century.

LAST

If members have announcements that might be of interest to GDS members – including of published books or articles, calls for papers or proposals, notice of events or projects, etc. – please email them to me at smalik6@depaul.edu, with the words “GDS Newsletter” in the subject line.