

**EWIS 2019 Call for Papers**  
**Re-envisioning Regional Powers in a World of Complexity and Change**

**Workshop Convenors:**

**Dr Miriam Prys-Hansen, German Institute of Global and Area Studies** ([Miriam.Prys@giga-hamburg.de](mailto:Miriam.Prys@giga-hamburg.de))

**Prof. Derrick Frazier, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL**  
([derrick.frazier@us.af.mil](mailto:derrick.frazier@us.af.mil); [derrick.v.frazier@gmail.com](mailto:derrick.v.frazier@gmail.com))

During the first decade of the 21st century, perceptions of US retrenchment from several world regions and a generally perceived weakened 'West' motivated scholars to consider the implications of such change with respect to global power dynamics. The rise of the BRICS during this period suggested that these new dynamics created growing space for regional actors to shape regional politics and to compete for regional leadership. Regional power scholarship in these earlier years sought to examine just how much regional power dynamics were changing given concurrent changes in the global distribution of power.

While earlier research flourished and produced knowledge about the nature and role of regional powers, it is worth questioning whether the existing models and theories articulated in the 2000s will suffice in today's world of growing complexity. The presence of wicked problems such as climate change and transnational crime, the increasing importance of non-traditional actors and the ever-increasing speed of technological and informational innovations have placed states in a difficult position of trying to moderate and influence factors that extend well beyond national borders. These factors, considered with the continuation of traditional power politics and the re-emergence of great power security dilemmas makes understanding the role and nature of regional powers more complicated than ever before. The limitations of extant research have become more apparent since the 2000s. The neglect of domestic issues, the lack of methodological pluralism, the inability to think across levels and the lack of integration of insights in disciplines beyond political science are strikingly lacking. Nor has research explored systematically the impacts of additional factors that have complicated the international political landscape. Developments such as domestic crises in Brazil and South Africa and a worldwide weakening of the regionalist momentum call for a complete renewal of the research agenda on Regional Powers.

This workshop will address some of these identified shortcomings, bringing together researchers to facilitate the development of new theories, new methods and expanded notions of the field's conceptualization of regional powers. Specifically, contributions will center on addressing the following questions:

- How useful is the concept of Regional Power in times of critical and durable change in the global order?

- Which states (or other actors) should be considered as potential Regional Powers beyond the 'usual suspects' and what are the implications of broadening the universe of cases for regional power concepts and theories?
- How can we account better for domestic factors previously neglected in research on Regional Powers?
- What linkages are there between regional and global level policy-making?
- Which geographical but also institutional spaces are occupied by Regional Powers and where are they excluded and why?
- What can other disciplines beyond Political Science contribute to the research agenda?