

14th Pan-European Conference on International Relations

EISA PEC 2020: Call for Section Proposals

“The Power Politics of Nature”

Deadline for section proposals: 30 November [midnight, CET]

Date: Wednesday 16 - Saturday 19 September 2020

Venue: University of Malta, Malta

Organized by: European International Studies Association & the University of Malta

Programme chairs: Dr Vineet Thakur & Dr Beatrix Futák-Campbell (both from University of Leiden)

Perhaps in no other period of human history has the end of the world seemed so imminent. To be sure, apocalyptic thinking may be as old as our species, and nuclear weapons have hung over us as a dark cloud for three quarters of a century now. But the frightening pace at which the scientific opinion on climate change has moved in the past few years from the possibility of mass extinction to its near certainty has an unparalleled foreboding of inevitability. All forms of human knowledge and practice, all tools available to us, must now be mobilized for the purposes of imagining and enabling new political, social and economic order(s) with ecological interests at their core. Western modernity is premised as it is on the erasure of nature. Accordingly, the Indian author Amitav Ghosh accuses the prevailing ‘regimes of thought’, which include modes of academic inquiries, disciplinary strictures, and forms of art and literature, of being ‘modes of concealment’, for they have evaded discussions on the most urgent issue of

our times, climate change. Hence, how our ways of knowing and doing foreground nature is the fundamental question all modes of inquiry now face.

A growing number of IR scholars have responded to this call. However, a discipline-wide conversation is yet to emerge on the fundamental ways in which the politics of the 'international' is shaped and transformed by the overarching nature of this challenge. If Morgenthau's assertion was that IR ought to interrogate the nature of power politics, the inverse is equally true for our times: the power politics of nature must whirl into the epicenter of our inquiries. Climate change truly places global relations with all their entanglements as our central concern – relations that encompass, and eventually surpass the distinctions of, humans and non-humans, but also with an increasing urgency reveal how political, social and economic disparities between the Global North and the Global South, the haves and the have-nots, are exploited and amplified by natural calamities. Climate change is an issue that enjoins scholars to become planetary in their thinking, which is not an abstract, zoomed-out idealization. Planetary thinking is, indeed, only possible through attentiveness to particularities of critical 'entanglements', to use Édouard Glissant's term, of the relations of power.

The 14th Pan-European conference on International Relations invites scholars and students of International Studies to reflect on the power politics of nature, and reveal how their own scholarship, irrespective of the area or theme they work in, is imbricated in the Anthropocene. We particularly encourage contributions which propose theoretical and methodological tools to engage with climate change. The purpose, we suggest, should not be to see this issue as an 'add-on', nor as (yet) another 'turn', but as a central concern of studying the international.

In addition to inviting contributions on the conference theme, we also welcome contributions from all fields of inquiry within International Studies, as well as reflections from other humanities and social science fields interested in such issues.

The conference programme will have sections composed of panels. A section usually consists of either five or ten 105-minute long panel sessions.

The tasks for a section chair include:

- ✓ Section chairs must be EISA members
- ✓ proposing a section around a theme; populating some preliminary panels at the proposal stage; adhering to EISA's inclusive agenda by ensuring that your section has no all-male panels and maintaining a balance between established, emerging, and postgraduate scholars;
- ✓ composing the rest of the section's programme, by selecting papers that were proposed in response to the call for papers;
- ✓ identifying panel chairs and discussants;
- ✓ taking overall responsibility for the actual execution of their section's contribution to the conference programme.

[ONLINE SECTION PROPOSAL](#)

Proposals for sections should include:

1. Name, institutional affiliation, EISA membership number and email address of the proposed section chair(s) – maximum two chairs per section;
2. Proposed section title and summary of its theme(s) and rationale(s) (no more than 250 words). Please state here if your proposed section is to contain 5 or 10 panels.
3. Tentative indication of possible panels. We do not require a full list of panels, but we would like at least 3 suggested themes for a 5-panel proposal and 6 suggested themes for a 10-panel proposal, which would show what the Section convenor(s) hope would be covered by the section at the conference. Section convenors, if they wish, can also substantiate these themes with suggested paper titles or roundtable participants.

The Closing date for section proposals is 30 November [midnight, CET].

Please submit the proposals here: [ONLINE SECTION PROPOSAL](#)



For any queries, please contact us at: proposals.pec20@eisa-net.org.

Dr. Vineet Thakur

Institute for History

Leiden University,

Leiden, The Netherlands

Dr. Beatrix Futák-Campbell

Governance and Global Affairs

Leiden University College

The Hague, The Netherlands