

CfP

Workshop title: Security knowledge production through 'North-South' coalitions and negotiations

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Knowledge production is an increasingly studied topic in International Relations. This is particularly the case when dealing with issues such as international environmental politics (e.g. Jasanoff and Long Martello 2004; Bentley 2017) and international political economy (e.g. Seabrooke 2014; Broome and Quirk 2015). In security studies, the role of groups of professionals, epistemic communities, and expertise in the elaboration of security policies has also become an important object of study (e.g. Bigo 2002; Villumsen Berling and Bueger 2015; Bliesemann de Guevara and Kostic 2017). Understanding the politics of security – struggles over the definition of threats, their label and categorisation, and who should be protected – has become central in critical security studies (Bigo 2008). It has become clear that security policies are not merely adapting to the 'reality' of their environment but are also the product of the negotiation and (re)construction of knowledge on security.

However, while this literature is expanding, analyses that focus on understanding the processes of knowledge production across the Global North and the Global South are still rare. This is problematic as practices of international interventions increasingly include elites in the Global South through co-operation/co-optation strategies. It is precisely such coalition of actors between the Global North and the Global South that is particularly efficient in the production of legitimate knowledge aimed at governing the Global South (Moe and Müller 2018; Bakonyi 2018). Moreover, strategies of resistance, adaptation, and instrumentalization of knowledge that originated in the North, as well as legitimation of situated knowledge and reclaim of extracted knowledge, are used by Southern actors in their interactions with Northern actors. Investigating this co-production of security knowledge and its machinery enables to counter asymmetries and study actors in the Global South as strategic agents, while not overstating the domination of the Global North, including in international interventions. This workshop will thus aim to bring together empirical studies investigating how complex coalitions of actors, interests and ideas that cut across the 'North'/'South' divide shape security policies: how in this context the knowledge informing security policies is evidenced, negotiated and contested in practice, by whom, for which purpose and with what effect.

We welcome theoretical and empirical perspectives that tackles the following questions: what and how security knowledge in 'North-South' interactions and in policy practices? Which types of knowledges are considered to be relevant, authoritative and legitimate in particular settings such as security interventions or development/security programming? What impact these knowledges have on policy practice? How are hierarchies of knowledge established? Can knowledge production be imagined differently? How is nonknowledge enacted in security policies? How modes of non-knowledge become the object of controversies, and how they have political effects? How do these reproduce epistemic relations of domination and subordination in 'North-South' relations? How do security professionals, NGOs, and other experts enact different modes of nonknowledge? How do they contest attributions of knowledge and non-knowledge, and with what effects?

Proposals should be submitted through the [EISA](#) website before January 18th 2021.

