

<sup>n</sup> The word *international*, it must be acknowledged, is a new one ; though, it is hoped, sufficiently analogous and intelligible. It is calculated to express, in a more significant way, the branch of law which goes commonly under the name of the *law of nations* :

EWIS Thessaloniki 2022 | Call for Papers | Workshop, 6-9 July

## *Conceptual histories of International Relations: Emergence, evolution, revolution*

Convenors:

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Submission deadline:

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**Rationale and Background** | Conceptual history as an approach to international studies has gained traction over the last couple of years. Conceptual history is in particular associated with the work of Reinhart Koselleck but can also be traced back to Quentin Skinner and Michel Foucault. This workshop explores conceptual history to ask how and when our modern world of international relations became conceivable, i.e. how the conceptual apparatus around "the international" and international relations as we know them emerged? These questions need both theoretical unpacking and empirical investigation. Furthermore, as key concepts have changed through temporal evolution and revolution, the workshop tackles conceptual developments both historically and contemporarily.

This workshop speaks to two currently rather disjunct literatures. Firstly, there is the literature on concepts in international relations. In this emerging debate, it has been demonstrated that concepts can tell us a great deal about how we know the world when thinking and talking about it. Yet, concepts are never neutral, nature-given signifiers of a world just waiting to be understood. Instead, they have emerged at specific times, for specific purposes and with specific cultural connotations.

Secondly, this workshop speaks to historical IR more generally. Here, this workshop foregrounds the importance of conceptual history, conceptual innovation and conceptual development as key prisms for understanding global politics both past and present. Taking concepts for granted leads to misguided historical analyses, where the past is read in light of the present, and to a naturalisation of our present understanding of the conceptual building-blocks of global politics, making us relate uncritically to the world around us. Any global history of international relations should thus also be a global conceptual history.

**Practical information** | We invite authors from all theoretical perspectives and methods but are particularly interested in papers engaging with conceptual changes of "the Sattelzeit" (1750-1850) and today, as well as papers exploring conceptual change theoretically. | Beyond the workshop itself, the ultimate aim of the workshop will be the publication of one or two edited volume(s) on a) Koselleck and b) conceptual history in IR. | The workshop is organized by the [CHOIR](#) project. The project is able to cover some costs associated with meals in Thessaloniki, as well as funding limited upwards to EUR 200 per participant in order to alleviate the cost of travel and accommodation.

**Possible topics** | • The emergence of key concepts (e.g. peace, order, diplomacy) • Conceptual transformations in time • Conceptual pushback from "the peripheries" • Politics of conceptual change • Concepts and social change • Concepts beyond the West • Conceptual change and revolution •

**POLITIQUE.** adj. de tout genre. Qui concerne le gouvernement d'un Etat, d'une République, Gouvernement politique. maxime politique. discours politique. reflexions politiques. ce qu'il dit, ce qu'il fait est fort politique.