

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

Crisis and Hope in International Relations

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Today's contemporary condition is one of existential crisis. Modernist constructs and liberal assumptions of a united and coherent world have ended up in barbaric consequences. In the sphere of international development, policies have cemented the socio-economic gulf between regions, while international security practices have reinforced racialised, gendered and colonial logics. Mounting crises today (economic, health, humanitarian, political and climatic) have collapsed the certainties of International Relations. And yet, in this fundamentally uncertain and fragile world, hope is pervasive. Hope appears to be the last resource to fade and seems to endure despite crises and emergencies. Yet, hope itself is under-theorised, almost mystically inaccessible, often grasped as if through a thick impenetrable fog. Hope cannot be easily isolated and analysed, despite (or maybe because) of its centrality to contemporary narratives of politics and possibility. Hope's speculative framing enables us to imagine a future which is unlike the present, but how distinct this/ these future(s) are is a matter of conceptual debate.

This workshop aims to examine the relationship between past, present and future that hope appears to provide and to explore the ontological stakes involved in discussions of our contemporary condition through the prism of hope. Through opening up to the present and the world external to us, hope is seen to allow the cultivation of new imaginative sensibilities, subjectivities and forms of belonging that may contribute to a reconfiguration of our world beyond current crises. However, as policy approaches of non-linear intervention, adaption and resilience suggest, hope may also become governmentalised in new policy imaginaries. Against this background the workshop is interested in investigating the analytics, ontologies and ethics of hope.

We invite contributions that engage with the following questions and themes:

- What are the ethics, aesthetics and politics of hope today?
- How does hope relate to (or move beyond) both affirmation and critique?
- What is at stake in differing temporalities of hope (and different readings of immanence and discontinuity)?
- How do we grasp hope as a relational (affective and material) politics of interconnectedness and encounter?
- In what ways does hope become imbricated within critical Black and Indigenous studies, critical environment studies, radical politics, feminist theory and the Anthropocene?
- What do discourses of hope say about the ethical, political and philosophical possibilities of our contemporary condition?
- How is hope engaged in different political narratives – from techno-managerial frameworks drawing on hope for assistance and resources to hope as a vital resource for the mobilisation of resistance?
- What does it mean to consider hope ontologically, between 'being and nothingness'?
- What does it mean to hope after 'The End of the World'?

Submission deadline: 31 January 2022, <https://eisa-net.org/ewis-2022/>