EWIS Workshop on International Society

**Norms, Rules, Practices and Institutions: How does it all hang together?**

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‘Norms’, ‘rules’, ‘institutions’ and ‘practices’ are all terms used to account for the social nature of international society and to capture, explain and critique the ways states interact among each other and with actors from world society, i.e. individuals and non-state actors of various forms and backgrounds. As concepts, they are often used rather haphazardly in work dealing with international society, in what is often labelled the “English School” but also in constructivist writings more generally. In addition, they often are used as substitutes for one another. But they relate to different phenomena and often imply different explanatory and theoretical backgrounds. Since ‘international society’ is constituted by such social facts, the confusion of meanings has led to a weakening of the arguments about the relationship between norms and institutions, the linkages between practices and institutions, or the nature of institutional change. The aim of this workshop is to achieve a clarification of meanings, in the first instance (including an explication of the several meanings that may accrue to a single term), a closer understanding of the phenomena to which they refer (including their polymorphous natures) and the various ways in which such social facts may be deployed to explicate the ‘social’ in international society. The orientation of the workshop is analytical but the (different) theories of knowledge underpinning the concepts are clearly relevant to their status and will be explored. We build on an existing network of scholars from different backgrounds and in different stages of their careers, while inviting others to join us. Papers may be purely conceptual or clarify concepts in the context of empirical analysis. They may address topics such as the following:

* Clarifications of core concepts in international society theorising
* Linkages between norms, rules, practices and institutions
* The relevance of practice and discourse theory
* Challenges to the core concepts of international society
* Global and regional expressions of norms, rules, practices and institutions
* Critical investigations of the usage of these concepts in theory and practice
* Hegemonial and subaltern conceptualisations of international society
* Genealogies of core international society concepts
* Norms, rules, practices and institutions between actors and structures
* Functional variations of norms, rules, practices and institutions