**Urban Archives of the International**

**Convenors:**

Ari Jerrems, Australian National University, arijerrems@gmail.com

Delacey Tedesco, University of Exeter, d.tedesco@exeter.ac.uk

Cities are often understood as spaces of interconnectivity par excellence, as meeting points for diverse trajectories, memories and political projects. While there has been increased interest in urban sites and actors in IR scholarship in recent years, this work tends to position the urban as crucible, recipient, or echo of the international: as a ‘neat’ archive in which to find evidence of novel forms of agency or distributions of power. Such accounts provide insight into how global historical arrangements operate in place, but pay less attention to how the urban everyday actively generates, shapes and contests political configurations of ‘the international’.

This workshop approaches the urban instead as ‘a very messy kind of archive’ (Rao 2009, 371) of emplaced practices of time, space, memory, and materialization that give shape to multiple and interconnecting worlds that constitute, and even exceed, international politics. Urban archives of the international are thus not conventional archives, but rather collections of empirical material that shed light on how the urban is imagined, enacted and remembered in conjunction with ‘the international’. Such an understanding of the urban archive rejects unilinear and unispatial accounts of the urban as an external, delimited sphere set in opposition to the international. Rather we pursue varied analyses of ways that messy, unsettled and incomplete urban archives capture an everyday record - an experience, a feeling, a memory - of the practices that inextricably co-constitute urban lives and global politics. We welcome papers engaging with, but not restricted to, the following sets of questions:

Firstly, how does thinking with messy urban archives allow us to reconsider core concerns of critical IR scholarship?

* How do engagements with messy urban archives open avenues for rethinking dominant modern tropes and concepts of international politics, such as the state, war, citizenship, or negotiation and diplomacy?
* Can messy urban archives capture hints or haunts of missing subjects and identities within international politics, those forms of subjectivity and relationality that have been refused or denied by modern, Eurocentric and colonial configurations of space and time, self and other, proper politics and chaos?
* How well does the notion of the ‘messy’ archive escape the efforts of the conventional archive of modernity to capture, to categorize, to control and thus to govern those figured as subject to global politics and colonial power?

Secondly, which methodological approaches may help study messy urban archives?

* What empirical sites, practices, or processes help us understand how memory, time, experience, or narratives are captured as messy urban archives? Whose experiences or narratives are captured and archived?
* What methods, techniques/technologies, modes of encounter, and forms of articulation are used in the creation of messy urban archives, and what methods, techniques/technologies, modes of encounter, and forms of articulation can be used or innovated to study these archives? How are we implicated in the project of messy archives through the methodological choices we make?
* What resonances exceed even the messy urban archive? What is unarchivable in these acts that co-constitute the urban everyday and global politics?