EWIS 2023 | Call for Papers | Workshop, 12-14 July 2023

IR, Dialectic and the Interplay Between Conflict and Cooperation

Convenors:
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The current panel aims to address the interplay between war and peace, conflict and cooperation from a dialectical perspective, assessing how the dialectic method can influence our political thinking and practice.

From the Pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus to contemporary philosophers like Kant, Hegel, Marx and Clausewitz, the dialectic is a key methodological tool applied to explore the political and social affairs via a permanent state of flux. The value of the dialectic rests on its open-endedness and the dynamic assessment of socio-political relations.

The themes of war and peace have not been dialectically explored by the dominant IR approaches of Realism, Liberalism, Feminism, Postcolonialism or Marxism. These approaches insist on assessing conflict and cooperation from (predetermined) monistic lenses such as the human nature, the state, the international system, the international institutions, class, gender or race. Furthermore, these approaches often maintain a dualism which separates: rationalism from empiricism, idealism from realism, communitarianism from universalism, the public sphere from the private sphere and determinism from indeterminism. Carr's landmark *The Twenty Year's Crisis* (despite its realist connotations) represents an attempt to overcome such a dualism by dialectically assessing the interplay between utopianism and realism in the conduct of diplomacy and war. However, this work remains context specific, reflecting a specific historical conjuncture.

Instead of theorizing on the interplay of conflict and cooperation from a monistic lens this panel invites approaches which revisit the value of a dialectical perspective to IR. This workshop welcomes contributions which address – but are not limited to – the following themes:

- Dialectic, Recognition and Word Politics
- Dialectic, Agency and (Prudent) Decision Making in times of Crisis
- A Dialectical Assessment of the Rise of (left-wing or right-wing) Populism with its Polarising effects
- Tension between the ethics of global civil society and the society of sovereign states in terms of addressing urgent matters (eg Climate Change, Human Security)
- Literary Accounts (ancient tragedy or contemporary drama) on War and Peace and their Scholarly Influence in IR
- Assessing the (historical) Context of Scholars who theorised on Conflict and Cooperation
- Revisiting Just War Traditions
- Assessing the Implications of International Law and Human Rights in Preventing or Waging war