Social media and everyday international relations: Digital narratives of security, identity, and global orders

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An emerging literature has begun to explore what the digitization of politics and everyday life means for key questions in International Relations such as diplomacy, security, wars, and peace. Not only states, international organizations, and other transnational actors increasingly use social media for purposes of strategic communication and to shape their global images, individual citizens also experience and make meanings of the international through everyday online encounters – for instance circulation of memes, participation in hashtag activisms, or consumption of user-generated content. In this context, scholars have approached social networking platforms not only as a mere source to extract information from, but also as new, networked sites for practicing, imagining, and narrating international relations, with considerations of the role of media ecology and technological affordances. Fruitful research has been conducted on for example digital public diplomacy, digital disinformation campaigns, visual propaganda of militant groups, and Internet-based transnational movements.

This workshop seeks to deepen and broaden this research agenda by bringing together the overlapping interests in social media, everyday international relations, and popular geopolitics. It takes as its point of departure that mundane engagements and encounters in the technologically mediated space of social media platforms provide a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of the personal, the everyday, and the international. This broadened research agenda calls for interdisciplinary investigation of, among others, popular narratives of security, identity, and global orders in digital space, affective storytelling of personal experiences during times of conflicts or revolutions, and the (global) politics of digital participatory visual culture.

We welcome methodological pluralism, interdisciplinary approaches, and broad empirical scope beyond "Western" experiences. More specifically, we invite theoretical and empirical contributions that deal with (but are not limited to) the following questions:

- Memes and visuality in everyday digital politics
- Documenting everyday life during times of disruption (such as revolutions, wars, and global health crises) through digital media
- Transnational conservatism and the global alt-right
- Emotions and affect
- Race and gender
- Epistemological and methodological challenges to studying everyday digital IR
- Technological affordances and their impact
- Narratives of digital global order