

Workshop Convenors:

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Foreign Policy Analysis 2.0:

Enquiring the New Fusion of State and Capital(ism) in the Ruling Elite

In retrospect, 2016 marked the inception of something new. However, in 2024, Cambridge Analytica already belongs to the old world order which gave rise to Brexit and Trump's first term - an era when rule-based norms creaked but still applied. Trump's re-election represents a more profound transformation: the rise of an oligarchic system in which state, financial, commercial and technological elites do not merely influence policy but become fully integrated into the mechanisms of power. This shift cannot be reduced to the interference of financial interests into policy formation but must be understood as their full incorporation into the corridors of power - and into the informational realm. The world we once perceived as stable - anchored by facts and reinforced by evidence - is increasingly fracturing. This workshop invites research that explores the evolution of foreign policy analysis (FPA) in light of this fundamental transformation. As the fusion of state power, financial and commercial entities consolidate into a new ruling elite, traditional frameworks of foreign policymaking are challenged. This workshop invites research exploring the evolution of FPA, specifically papers from within International Relations (IR) and International Political Economy (IPE) that critically engage with these dynamics. Contributions may address theoretical innovations in FPA, case studies on the role of elite networks, or empirical analyses of the nexus between statecraft and corporate influence.

1. How must we redraw the contours of the state as the central entity for foreign policy formation?
2. How does the integration of financial and commercial interests into policymaking affect international negotiations and diplomacy?
3. What are the consequences of this transformation for democratic oversight and accountability in foreign policymaking?
4. How does the fusion of state and capital affect the study and practice of economic statecraft?

Potential topics might include but are not limited to:

1. Theoretical innovations in FPA to account for the fusion of state and capital
2. Case studies on the connection of capitalism (and its contradictions) with FPA
3. Analyses on the role of elite networks in shaping foreign policy
4. The impact of technological elites on foreign policy formation
5. Implications of this fusion for global governance and democratic accountability

We invite scholars to submit abstracts of no more than 300 words by 11 February 2025.