

2019 Exploratory Symposia

Rapallo, 23-26 October 2019

Symposium: The Spiralling of the Securitization of Migration

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| 1. Valeria Bello |
| 2. Katharina Crepaz |
| 3. Eugenio Cusumano |
| 4. Christian Kaunert |
| 5. Juha Vuori |

“This group project intends to focus on the spiralling of the securitization of migration, a theoretical framework that the research group has been working at for some time now to understand the current “migration crisis” and the related xenophobic policies, along with those attempts that strive to counteract the nationalistic politics. The theoretical framework of the spiralling of the securitization of migration considers that different actors, policies and narratives, when moved by prejudicial cognitions, act as driving forces of a spiralling progression that accelerates those dynamics entailed in the creation of the migration-security nexus. In such a light, this group project’s main aim is to develop a framework to further our understandings of how and under what circumstances diverse state and non-state actors provide conditions for either socially constructing or deconstructing migration as a threat. These will each analyze how situations stemming from the so-called “migration crisis” in the EU have been dealt with at different levels.”

Symposium: The Handbook of Global Politics in the 22nd Century

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| 6. Laura Horn |
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| 7. Nicholas Kiersey |
| 8. Aleksandra Spalinska |
| 9. Ayşem Mert |
| 10. Luca Ozzano |

“Written in a futur antérieur style, the project, tentatively entitled *The Handbook of Global Politics in the 22nd Century* (HGP22), will produce a number of engaging essays that ‘write the future’ of global politics on the basis of a wide range of theoretical perspectives and approaches, as seen from the book’s vantage point 100 years from now, in the 22nd century. HGP22 will mirror the format and style of existing handbooks, but it will do so through exploring the horizon of the possible: combining concise outlines and discussions of theories, structures, processes and core issues in international relations with a conjectural investigation of how these might play out over the course of the next century. HGP22 will be a unique and indispensable guide to opening up the discussion of the trajectories of International Relations, resonating with the increasing focus on utopian and/or dystopian visions and imaginaries, in the popular domain as well as in academia.”

Symposium: Fabricating World Politics

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| 11. Jonathan Luke Austin |
| 12. Donatella Della Ratta |
| 13. Anna Leander |
| 14. Luisa Cruz Lobato |
| 15. Lucas Introna |
| 16. Matthias Leese |

“What do we, as students of International Relations (IR), do? [...] imagine a student of world politics standing in a factory, at the end of a production line spitting out little objects. Imagine her picking one of these up and examining it with care. Or imagine her sitting in a studio before an architect’s desk, sketching. Or sitting in a workshop surrounded by tools, metals, plastics: making things. Imagine a student of world politics doing all that. This is hard to imagine because, well, that’s not what we do at the moment. This symposium explores the possibility that we might begin doing things like that and therein start to radically transform the vocational content of IR. It does so by broaching the possibility of taking a positive and affirmative perspective on the role of the material-technological in world politics. More specifically, we begin with the provocation that IR must today begin the task of fabricating its knowledge in very literal terms. This refers to the idea that scholars of IR might be able to begin prototyping, constructing, and distributing concrete material objects that intervene in the course of world politics. In this symposium we will focus our discussion of this possibility on considering both how the material-technological can/does produce social change and on how the aesthetic form of those objects is crucial to their change-making capacity.”

Symposium: Hope: A Resource for the Anthropocene?

Contact: Pol Bargaés-Pedreny pbargues@cidob.org
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| 17. Pol Bargaés-Pedreny |
| 18. Sebastian Schindler |
| 19. Valerie Waldow |
| 20. David Chandler |

“Today we are told that we live in a time of endings, climate emergencies, hybrid warfare and catastrophe, the time of the Anthropocene. For many commentators, there is very little that can be done to prevent catastrophic climate change. For some, it is already too late. If ever there was an inauspicious time for hope, it is today. This research project seeks to engage with and to challenge this apocalyptic mood. Despite the doom-mongering it is clear to us – counter-intuitively and, indeed, surprisingly – that in different forms and paradigms, hope still does exist in our world. This project first of all sets out to chart the forms in which hope survives today and to analyse its workings and secondly to engage with the normative implications of these findings. In so doing it seeks to

cast a new light upon hope and to develop an understanding of hope as an analytic to engage with discussions of our contemporary condition.”

Symposium: Conceptualizing the ‘International’

Contact: Zeynep Gulsah Capan zgulsah@gmail.com

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| 21. Zeynep Gulsah Capan |
| 22. Janis Grzybowski |
| 23. Benjamin Herboth |
| 24. Karen Smith |

“The purpose of this exploratory workshop is to launch a new collaborative research project that aims at deepening our understanding of the ‘international’. International Relations as a discipline continues to have a contentious relationship with its object of inquiry. What is the ‘international’? How has it been traditionally defined and how have the critiques of these mainstream definitions? The project is located at the intersection of various approaches such as historical sociology, international political sociology and postcolonial perspectives. The aim of the project is to contribute to and connect these debates substantively by focusing on conceptualizations of the ‘international’. The project will be concerned with understanding what is the space of the ‘international’ that we as IR scholars refer to. How do we understand the space and when it came about? Why is it that the questions the field asks whether with respect to history, sociology and/or philosophy focus on the nature of the field (IR) and not the object of inquiry (international). This project aims, as such, to focus on the object of inquiry of the field itself.”

Symposium: Pedagogies of Visual Politics

Contact: David Shim David.Shim@rug.nl

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| 25. William A. Callahan |
| 26. Kyle Grayson |
| 27. Gabi Schlag |

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| 28. Juliette Schwak |
| 29. David Shim |

“Research on visual politics in the field of International Relations (IR) has grown significantly in recent years. Since Roland Bleiker (2001) declared the “aesthetic turn” in the early 2000s, scholars made important contributions to the study of different visual media including cartoons, films, maps, paintings, photographs, satellite images and video games. This scholarship since then has continuously demonstrated the important role visual imagery plays in making sense of “real world” issues such as climate change, humanitarian crises, migration, peace, terrorism and wars. Thus, while knowledge production on the research level is strong, addressing questions of teaching and learning about visual politics remain less visible in the field. The workshop gathers junior and senior researchers/instructors, who will talk about their teaching and examination strategies. This includes a range of diverse issues such as discussing the particular contents of courses, the learning goals, the assignment requirements and the strategies of student activation. The workshop will thus facilitate a dialogue on ideas and approaches to teach visual politics to (under)graduate students.”