

## Finding a Home in International Relations

The workshop's aim is to discuss different ways 'home' (and its correlates 'family', 'domestic', 'House', 'domopolitics' etc.) can make a prominent return to International Relations.

Home is commonly conceived of as the 'other' of the international (e.g. 'domestic' politics or Ministries of 'Home Affairs'). Notions of home are, however, not only constitutive of the 'International' as its dialectical other but they shape, order and fill world politics in many other ways, too. We see at least four areas in which we invite like-minded scholars to explore the relevance, impact and formative nature of 'home' in world politics:

- 1) Many spheres of social and political interactions across state borders are *binarily* categorised through the dialectic of international/domestic. These binary spheres are conceived as mutually exclusive, yet we know from feminist, queer and poststructural theorizing that state borders and social boundaries have to be understood as malleable points of fluid transitions. The concept of 'home' can therefore serve as an alternative vocabulary to situate actors, especially actors on the move, in world politics beyond the traditional Eurocentric inside/outside essentialised logic of states as it is codified in international bureaucratic and legal language.
- 2) The Home is an important space of politics. It is important as *social space* in which hierarchical patterns, practices and discourses of power and authority are reproduced that are relevant for the constitution of political community; Home is crucial as an *object* of politics (i.e. of communal and authoritative regulation), starting from the most material forms (buildings, architecture, 'things' like consumer goods) to its most dematerialized like digital imaginaries and storytelling.
- 3) The Home can also be understood as an *epistemological* lens. The observer's own experience of home and not-home, of the transitions between home and not-home as well as of stately inside/outside practices (e.g. nationality/citizenship laws) shape significantly the act of observing, analysing and understanding what 'The' international is, what it means and what matters in its constitution and workings.
- 4) Finally, Home is a central trope in diverse political discourses. The use of the notion spans from fascistic-nationalist ravings of 'Lebensraum', passing cosmopolitan imaginaries of 'home is where the heart is' to alternative imaginaries or utopias of belonging, community and sovereignty.

We invite submissions that foreground any of these understandings of home and which are articulated through (but are by no means limited to) the following themes:

- Border-crossing and losing, moving, finding, making homes
- Non-state understandings of 'home' and 'homelessness', and associated notions like sovereignty, belonging, citizenship, refuge, exile etc.
- Epistemologies of belonging and loneliness; "safe haven", domopolitics and national ontological security; citizenship and governing the state as a home; nomadic homes; spaces of home for transnational solitude

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- Gendered, queer, indigenous or other critical theorizations of borders, boundaries, sheltered and open spaces of world social interaction; unmaking gendered homes
- Stories and visual/textual narratives of home in IR

As practical output of this workshop we will be seeking publication outlets and continued cooperation through a researcher network.