



## **IR Working Group**

### **Program 2012**

*Wednesday, Jan 25, 2012, 2pm – 4pm*  
*Teatro, Badia*

#### **Christian Reus-Smit – Irrelevant? Don't Blame Theory**

It is now commonplace to bemoan our field's lack of practical relevance, and to blame this sorry situation on our penchant for ever more abstract theorizing over the analysis of real world phenomena. This paper challenges this formulation, arguing that the issue is incorrectly cast as one of theory and practice, and that the real problem is how our field navigates the political relationship between ideas and politics. The language of 'theory' and 'practice' directs our attention to problems of ideational abstraction and their relation to a narrow domain of policy engagement. The bigger issue, however, is the status of our field as a realm of practical discourse; as an engine of ideas constitutive of political action within a broader public sphere. When understood in these terms, the obstacle to practical relevance is not theoretical abstraction but a series of other disciplinary problems: our lack of any real interest in the nature of politics as a distinctive form of human action (which so animated early scholars in the field); the loss of the field's early practical intent; the sadly too common bifurcation of explanatory and normative inquiry; and the disappearance of the figure of the international public intellectual.

*Christian Reus-Smit* is Professor of International Relations at the European University Institute in Florence. He received his PhD from Cornell University in 1995, and has been awarded fellowships and grants by the MacArthur Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Australian Research Council, the European University Institute in Florence, the Social Science Research Council in New York, and the British Academy. He is the author of *American Power and World Order* (Polity 2004) and *The Moral Purpose of the State* (Princeton 1999) co-author of *Theories of International Relations* (Macmillan/Palgrave 2001, 2005, 2008); editor of *The Politics of International Law* (Cambridge 2004); and co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (Oxford 2008), *Resolving International Crises of Legitimacy* (Special issue of *International Politics* 2007), and *Between Sovereignty and Global Governance* (Macmillan 1998).

#### **Stefano Recchia – Do Fears or Soft Balancing Drive American Multilateralism?**

Notwithstanding America's overwhelming material power, the United States frequently seeks multilateral approval through relevant international organizations

*Sponsoring Professor: Chris Reus-Smit*

*Organizers: Nicole Jenne ([nicole.jenne@eui.eu](mailto:nicole.jenne@eui.eu)), Payam Ghalehdar ([payam.ghalehdar@eui.eu](mailto:payam.ghalehdar@eui.eu))*

(IOs) before using military force abroad. What explains this trend? One influential explanation holds that policymakers want to avert potentially costly —soft balancing against the United States, which involves reduced cooperation by other countries on various issues of interest to Washington. To test that hypothesis, I conduct dozens of on-the-record interviews with former senior policy officials, including two national security advisers and one secretary of state. I find that policymakers generally seek IO approval in order to legitimize the use of force vis-a-vis key U.S. *domestic* audiences, and due to related, narrow concerns about burden sharing. However, averting broader soft balancing, or reduced international cooperation with the United States in other issue areas, is not an important factor.

**Stefano Recchia** is currently a Max Weber postdoctoral fellow at the EUI. In August 2012 he will join the faculty of the Department of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. His main research interests are: international security, U.S. foreign policy, multilateralism, and international ethics. His doctoral dissertation, successfully defended at Columbia University in the fall of 2011, has been nominated for the 2012 Helen Dwight Reid prize, awarded annually by the American Political Science Association for the best dissertation in the field of international relations, law, and politics. Stefano has published several peer-reviewed articles and is the co-editor (with Nadia Urbinati) of *A Cosmopolitanism of Nations: Giuseppe Mazzini's Writings on Democracy, Nation Building, and International Relations* (Princeton, 2009). Personal website: <http://www.mwpweb.eu/StefanoRecchia/>

*Wednesday, Feb 15, 2012, 2pm – 4pm*  
*Emeroteca, Badia*

### **Sarah Leonard & Christian Kaunert – Refugees, Security and the European Union**

The main aim of this book is to analyse the extent and the modalities of the securitization of asylum-seekers and refugees in the European Union (EU). There is a commonly held view in the existing literature that migrants and asylum-seekers have been securitized in the EU, that is, have been socially constructed as security threats. The book puts forward a more nuanced argument by analytically distinguishing the asylum policy of the EU from its policies on migrants and border controls on the basis of the literature on 'venue-shopping' and policy venues. It also makes a distinction between the EU asylum policy (which is understood, in line with EU official documents, as referring to the provisions concerning asylum systems within the EU, such as the Dublin Regulation or the 'Qualification' Directive) and the EU's policy towards asylum-seekers and refugees (which includes the EU asylum policy, but is broader as it also encompasses measures adopted in other policy areas that have a significant impact on asylum-seekers and refugees, such as border controls in particular). The book argues that the development of the EU asylum policy, far from 'securitizing' asylum-seekers and refugees, has actually led to the strengthening and codification of several rights for these two categories of persons. However, so continues the argument, the securitization of irregular migration had led to a significant strengthening of border controls at the EU external borders, which, in turn, has made it more difficult for asylum-seekers and refugees to access the protection granted by asylum systems in the EU. Thus, security concerns have had mainly an

indirect impact on the development of the EU's policy towards asylum-seekers and refugees. Asylum-seekers and refugees have not been securitized in the EU. However, irregular migrants have been securitized in the EU and the measures taken to prevent irregular migration have had an impact on the ability of asylum-seekers to gain access to asylum systems in the EU.

**Sarah Leonard** holds a first degree in International Relations and a Masters degree in European Studies from the University of Louvain (UCL, Belgium), as well as an MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies from the University of Leeds. She received her Ph.D. in International Politics from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. She has been a Lecturer in International Security at the University of Salford since September 2006. In 2004, she was a University Association of Contemporary European Studies (UACES) Research Fellow at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Belgium. In 2010, she was a Visiting Research Fellow at the *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals* (IBEI), before starting a two-year Marie Curie Research Fellowship at the *Centre d'études européennes* (CEE) at Sciences Po Paris in October 2010. Her main research interest and area of expertise is the European Union's response to non-traditional security threats such as irregular migration and terrorism, including the development of the EU's external cooperation on these issues. She has published on the EU asylum and migration policy, securitization theory, EU counter-terrorism and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

**Christian Kaunert** holds a Ph.D. in International Politics and an MSc in European Politics from the University of Wales Aberystwyth, a BA (Hons) European Business from Dublin City University, ESB Reutlingen and a BA (Hons) Open University. Dr. Kaunert lectured at the University of Wales Aberystwyth and at Maastricht University before joining the University of Salford in January 2007 as Lecturer in European Politics and International Relations. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2011. In 2004, he was a University Association of Contemporary European Studies (UACES) Research Fellow at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Belgium, where he examined the role of European institutions in counter-terrorism and the broader internal security field. In 2010, he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals* (IBEI), before starting a two-year Marie Curie (Senior) Research Fellowship at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) at the European University Institute in Florence in October 2010. He has studied, travelled and researched widely in Europe, Asia, and especially Latin America, including one six-month stay in Cali, Colombia, as well as further trips to China, Puerto Rico, and the United States. He is the author of several articles on European counter-terrorism, and wider internal security matters. His articles have appeared in journals such as 'European Security', 'Journal of European Integration', 'European Political Science', 'Terrorism and Political Violence', 'Studies in Conflict and Terrorism', the 'Central European Journal of International and Security Studies', and the 'Journal of Contemporary European Research'.

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2pm – 4pm*  
*Emeroteca, Badia*

**Jacinta O'Hagan - Purposes Beyond Ourselves: Exploring the Relationship between Liberal Internationalism and Humanitarianism**

*Sponsoring Professor: Chris Reus-Smit*  
*Organizers: Nicole Jenne ([nicole.jenne@eui.eu](mailto:nicole.jenne@eui.eu)), Payam Ghalehdar ([payam.ghalehdar@eui.eu](mailto:payam.ghalehdar@eui.eu))*

A significant dimension of liberalism as a normative project is the recognition of a common humanity. This generates not only rights and but also obligations to respect the dignity of others; to on occasions acknowledge and act upon ‘purposes beyond ourselves’. Liberal internationalism can be critically examined as site at which ‘purposes beyond ourselves’ have and may be pursued.

The concept of humanitarianism resonates strongly with the belief in ‘purposes beyond ourselves’. Humanitarianism is premised on the idea that we have an obligation to relieve the undue suffering of others, regardless of who they are. This too can be understood as an obligation premised upon the recognition of a common humanity and the commensurate obligation to respect the dignity of others. In addition, the emergence of the modern international humanitarian system has coincided with the active promotion of a liberal world order. This raises interesting questions about the relationship between humanitarianism and liberal internationalism.

This paper explores the interface between humanitarianism and liberal internationalism. It asks: how should we understand the relationship between humanitarianism and liberal internationalism? And what does this relationship tell us about the normative and empirical configurations of liberal internationalism, in theory and in practice? It argues that an examination of the evolution of humanitarianism provides us with a more complex understanding of the nature of liberal internationalism and its limits. In particular, it provides us with a more nuanced understanding of agency in liberal internationalism and of the way in which different forms of agency interact.

**Jacinta O'Hagan** is a Fellow in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University and Deputy Director of the Graduate Studies in International Affairs Program. She formerly worked for the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. She also held appointments as a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Queensland; was Visiting Scholar, Center for International Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles; a Research Affiliate, Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute for Technology; and Visiting Fellow at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. She is author of *Conceptions of the West in International Relations Thought: From Oswald Spengler to Edward Said*, (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 2002) and co-edited with Greg Fry *Contending Images of World Politics* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 2000). Her research interests are in the areas of culture and identity in world politics, with a particular interest in the concept of the West; the role of humanitarianism in world politics; and the relationship between new media and political violence. Her current research project focuses on the role of humanitarianism in world politics.

### **Eugenio Cusumano - The Purchase of Power: The Privatization of Military Support in the US and UK**

**Eugenio Cusumano** is finalizing his PhD at the European University Institute, Florence. His research interests revolve around the different ways in which states generate military power and their political and strategic consequences. Eugenio also worked on the regulation of private military companies by participating in the PRIV-WAR Project, funded by the EU Commission under the 7th Framework Programme.

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