

Department of Politics and International Relations,
The University of Oxford

Marie Curie Initial Training Network Programme:
Power and Region in a Multipolar Order (PRIMO)

How to Study Global IR? Regional Power Studies, Interview Techniques and Fieldwork Research

Convenor: Professor Andrew Hurrell

11 to 15 May 2015

To register, please go to: <http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/departamental/how-to-study-global-ir.html>

This workshop provides an issue- and problem-oriented training in methods and tools that can be used for different research strategies. Methods training is often most effective when it is tied to research questions that emerge from an on-going set of theoretical debates, practical challenges, and concrete issues. Accordingly the first two days will be devoted to bringing leading specialists to debate the state of the art on How to Study Global IR. The debates surrounding this question are clearly central to the overall conception of PRIMO, to the production of knowledge in the areas covered by PRIMO, and to the elaboration of specific research designs.

How to Study Global IR? There is now a far more sophisticated set of methodologies for making sense of the contested character of global order and of 'non-western' views, values and understandings. A good deal of work has been done that seeks to pluralize and relativize the study of IR, and to question a mainstream that is often unaware of the deeply western-centric character of its assumed historical narratives, its allegedly universal theoretical categories, and its political preoccupations. Much emphasis has therefore been given to understanding what is distinctive and different. But where does this agenda go next? For example, in problematizing unreflective 'non-western' theories that often assume relatively closed-off cultures or sets of ideas; or in bringing the global back in and examining differently situated understandings of the global, of global order, and of global processes; and in considering how ideas, norms and practices developed in a particular part of the world can assume a broader relevance for the global study of IR. Particular attention at the workshop will be given to the lessons for IR from global history, area studies and the comparative study of political thought.

The first two days will consist of four sessions and a concluding roundtable. Each of the four sessions will begin with one or two lead-off presentations of no more than 20 minutes, followed by a 10 minute response from a discussant and an open Q&A. Presenters are asked to pre-circulate a published or unpublished paper relevant to their remarks. The final roundtable will begin with opening remarks from the speakers of up to 10 minutes. PRIMO fellows will be fully integrated into the debates and will serve as discussants. These two days will also provide an opportunity to meet and interact with a significant number of other doctoral students and post-docs working on related subjects – and with the main speakers and presenters.



The next three days will provide an in-depth methods training that picks up on some of the theoretical and methodological questions of the first part—but will not be restricted just to these. It will concentrate on the practical application of some of the methodological challenges raised in the first two days. Issues of reliability and validity run through all the week and PRIMO fellows will be confronted by these questions in a variety of general and specific research contexts, as well as with questions of research ethics. Relevant specific assignments will be given to PRIMO fellows, for example constructing interview schedules relevant to their own work and focused discussion around their research in order to facilitate interactive participation and discussion.

Fieldwork Research and Interviews: This will cover planning and organizing fieldwork, different types of interviews (elite interviews, open interviews etc.), the relationship of interviews to process tracing and causal analysis, how interview-derived information can be used to construct explanatory narratives or to support or discard hypotheses. It will address general issues related to the validity and design of qualitative research, as well as the specific methodological challenges involved in interviewing. It will discuss when interviews should be conducted, who should be targeted for interviews, and how interview schedules can be designed to elicit the desired data.

Language, Ideas and Discourses: This will consider the question of language, ideas and discourse, both in terms of more general methodological approaches and in specific reference to the ideas and discourses of non-western regional and emerging powers. It will also explore the limitations and difficulties in locating identity claims.

Research Ethics and Archival Research: This will examine the ethical issues that arise from research involving human participation. There will be a discussion of research ethics and risk assessment, as well as what is required in submitting applications for ethical review (informed consent, information sheets etc.). It will also concentrate on archival research and the role of archives in different kinds of causal explanation and in analytic narratives. It will address general issues involved in archival research and the specific challenges and opportunities that emerge in archival research in non-western countries.



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Monday, 11 May 2015 – How to Study Global IR?

Lecture Theatre, Manor Road Building (except first two sessions)

11.30 – 12.30 Seminar Room B, MRB	Opening Session for PRIMO Fellows Professor Andrew Hurrell (University of Oxford)
12.30 – 14.00 Seminar Room A, MRB	CIS event: The Emerging Multiplex World Order Professor Amitav Acharya (American University)
14.00 – 16.00	The Global Study of IR Professor Amitav Acharya (American University) Chair: Professor Andrew Hurrell (University of Oxford) Discussant: Fleur Huijskens (Fudan University)
16.00 – 16.15	Coffee Break
16.15 – 18.15	Global IR: History and Area Studies Professor Louise Fawcett (University of Oxford) Professor Karoline Postel-Vinay (Sciences Po) Chair: Professor Bruno Reis (University of Lisbon) Discussants: Eleonora Tafuro (METU) and Insa Ewert (GIGA)
18.15 – 19.30 Common Room, MRB	Drinks Reception for Registered Participants
19.30 – 22.00	Dinner for Speakers, Chairs, Discussants and PRIMO Fellows

Tuesday, 12 May 2015 – How to Study Global IR?

Lecture Theatre, Manor Road Building (except morning session)

09.00 – 11.00 JCR Theatre, St Catherine's College	The Global Study of Political Ideas Dr Rahul Rao (SOAS, University of London) Chair: Professor Laurence Whitehead (University of Oxford) Discussant: Martin Pioch (Saint Petersburg State University)
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.30	Re-thinking the Research Agenda for East Asian IR Professor Rosemary Foot (University of Oxford) Chair: Professor Yuen Foong Khong (University of Oxford) Discussant: Mingde Wang (University of Oxford)
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch for Registered Participants
14.30 – 16.30	Roundtable: Can the Study of IR be De-centred? Professor Kalypso Nicolaidis (University of Oxford) Dr Basak Kale (Middle East Technical University) Dr Nora Fisher Onar (University of Oxford) Chair: Professor Andrew Hurrell (University of Oxford)



Wednesday, 13 May 2015 – Fieldwork Research and Interviews

Seminar Room A, Manor Road Building

09.30 – 11.00	Foreign Policy Analysis and Process Tracing Using Archival and Interview Data Professor Yuen Foong Khong (University of Oxford)
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	Doing Fieldwork and Interviews in Latin America Professor Leigh Payne (University of Oxford)
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.00	Fieldwork and Interviews Professor Andrew Hurrell (University of Oxford)
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break
16.30 – 18.00	Fieldwork and Interviews Professor Andrew Hurrell (University of Oxford)

Thursday, 14 May 2015 – Language, Ideas and Discourse

Seminar Rooms D, E and G, Manor Road Building

10.30 – 12.00 Seminar Room D, MRB	Authentic Islam? Contested Identity Claims and Discourses Dr Faiz Sheikh (University of Hamburg)
12.30 – 14.00 Seminar Room G, MRB (Lunch provided)	IR Research Colloquium “Shocking Intellectual Austerity: The Role of Ideas in the Demise of the Gold Standard in Britain” Dr James Morrison (LSE)
14.00 – 14.30	Coffee Break
14.30 – 16.00 Seminar Room E, MRB	Identity Claims and Indian Foreign Policy Dr Kate Sullivan (University of Oxford)
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break
16.30 – 18.00 Seminar Room E, MRB	PRIMO Meeting
19.30 – 22.00	Dinner for PRIMO Fellows

Friday, 15 May 2015 – Research Ethics and Archival Research

Seminar Room A, Manor Road Building

09.30 – 11.00	Research Ethics and Applying for Ethical Review Dr Beverley Loke (University of Oxford)
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	Archival Research: Experiences in China and the US Dr Nicola Horsburgh (University of Oxford)
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.00	Concluding Remarks and Wrap Up Professor Andrew Hurrell (University of Oxford)

