

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

IPS Doctoral Workshops

25-26 October, 2010 – Paris

Sciences-Po, PUC-Rio, King's College-London, and University of Victoria

The IPS Doctoral Workshops initiative is a project born out of the cooperation between Sciences-Po, PUC-Rio, King's College London and the University of Victoria that has taken place over the past three years in areas of research and graduate teaching. The initiative represents an attempt to enhance and structure the ongoing partnership between these institutions, and to create a core network of institutions promoting a different way to do and to study International Relations: International Political Sociology.

The discipline of international relations emerged as an answer to the problem of the international, but is hardly a solution; rather, it poses auxiliary problems. It is yet to convince researchers in political science, sociologists, geographers or comparativists of its heuristic virtues. As such, it is necessary to open up a field of research into the political and the international that takes seriously the relationship between these terms. The challenge is to denaturalize and decolonize the political, to displace statist and inter-statist categories that dominate current reflections on the international. This effort requires us to think about political contingency and the nature of its relationship to violent practices, their legitimation and the potential for dialogue. Our aim is to examine the international in terms of limits, borders, exchanges, and not as a homogeneous global space that reproduces the national on a "higher" level.

The workshops aim at gathering researchers and students that, in their work, face the problems posed by the impossibility of shifting from the national to the global, and that consider the international as a central question that determines the conditions of possibility of political practices. We will ask the students to consider not their object of research, but what kind of method(s) they employ, how they combine them, what techniques they use to implement their methodology, and how confident they are that these methods cohere with their proposed epistemology and critiques of standard accounts of political science.

We want the workshop to bring together professors, researchers and doctoral students from different institutions that are central to the activities of the IPS Section and the journal *International Political Sociology* in order to create a platform for discussion, exchange, and common projects disseminating research themes

and methods of IPS, and to deepen the connection between the doctoral students of the different institutions. In a nutshell, the rejection to do IR from an armchair and to pretend to understand the world through dependent and independent variables, obliges to think about methods and regime of truth. What can we learn and adapt from intertextual analysis, anthropology of the everyday, actor-network theory, constitutive theory, enlarged interdependence and field theory, genealogy, governmentality and subaltern studies?

Students from Brazil, Canada, France and UK will lead the discussions. Rob Walker, Jef Huysmans, Dominique Boulier, Mervyn Frost, Didier Bigo, Vivienne Jabri, Engin Isin, Joao Nogueira, Paulo Esteves will react to the students discussions and present their thoughts on these methods. The two days workshops are organised in a way which gives the possibility for long discussions with the audience.

Participants

The workshop is open to doctoral students who are close to finishing their PhD. Prospective participants are invited to submit an abstract of 300 words by **July 1st, 2010**, along with their CV. It should focus on methodology, and be related to their PHD research. High quality proposals will be considered if they demonstrate: 1) the link between the student's research and International Political Sociology, 2) the relevance and novelty of their proposal concerning the use of alternative methodologies in IR (discourse analysis, ethnographical research, operationalisation to their subjects of approach coming from Actor-Network Theory, field theory, and so on), 3) the relationship between their topic and the methodology they use.

The organizers will select by July 31st 4 Sciences-Po students who are expected to deliver by September 15 a paper (6 000 to 8 000 words) for presentation in order to be circulated before the conference. Proposals should be sent to didier.bigo.conflits@gmail.com and to camus@ceri-sciences-po.org.

Dates

The Workshop will take place on October 25-26th, 2010. Participants are expected to arrive on October 24th.

Location

The workshop will take place at CERI-Sciences Po (<http://www.ceri-sciences-po.org>), 56 rue Jacob, 75 006, Paris, France.

Accommodation

Participants will be hosted in a hotel nearby. The organisation will provide meals and lodgings for the invited participants for the whole duration of the workshop (lodging not relevant for Sciences Po students).

Fees

There are no participation fees.

For further information, please contact Colombe Camus (camus@ceri-sciences-po.org)