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Critical Theory Meets Classical Realism

CRISES, MODERNITY, AND THE RETURN OF HUMANITY

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/classicalrealism/>

Critical Theory Network held first international workshop at Newcastle University

The Critical Theory Meets Classical Realism Network held its first international workshop on 1 and 2 June 2013 at the Great North Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne. The event was attended by academic staff and postgraduate students from various universities including Newcastle, Durham, LSE, Warwick, Edinburgh Napier and Aberystwyth .

The two-day workshop hosted academics from the UK and abroad , who provided analyses on a variety of topics framed by the interlocution of classical realism and critical theory. The presentation titles were:

- “Classical Realism and the Question of Order” (Richard Ned Lebow, Dartmouth College)
- “The Idea of the Statesman in Political Realism” (Richard Beardsworth , then Florida International University)
- “Unlearning in International Relations: Maruyama, Morgenthau and Modernity ” (Felix Roesch , Coventry University)
- “In Search of a Feminist Classical Realism: Rebecca West on Power, War, and Sacrifice in the 1930s and 40s ” (Lene Hansen, University of Copenhagen)
- Framing the Work of Exploration: The Realities of Temporality and Spatiality Embedded in the "Classical" Thematics of Realism” (Timothy W. Luke , Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)
- “Scepticism and Realist Epistemology” (Kamila Stullerova , Aberystwyth University)



Workshop presenters, L-R: Kamila Stullerova, Sean Molloy, Richard Ned Lebow, Richard Beardsworth, Tim Luke, Felix Roesch. Seated L-R: Vibeke Schou-Tjalve, Lene Hansen, Michael Williams

- “The Machiavellian Ethics of Carr's The Twenty Years' Crisis” (Sean Molloy, University of Kent)
- “Under the Pale Light of the Humanist Moon”? Realism, Secularism and International Politics in the Global Age” (Vibeke Schou Tjalve , Danish Institute of International Studies)

Prof Michael Williams took over as lead academic during the workshop in the absence of Prof Hartmut Behr and provided insights on the next workshop which he will be co-hosting at the University of Ottawa next year, 20-21 June 2014.

Abstracts of the presentations, audio recordings, and photos are available on our website: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/classicalrealism/>

Network Updates

Prof Hartmut Behr and Dr Sean Molloy are editors of the Special Issue (no.6) of *International Politics* titled "Realism Reconsidered: New Contexts and Critiques" to be released in December 2013.

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Dr Felix Roesch presented his Newcastle workshop paper on Maruyama at two separate occasions in Japan, at the Social Science Research Institute, International Christian University, Tokyo, on 12th September 2013 and during the Japanese Studies Association Conference, Sapporo, on 16th September 2013.

Dr Kamila Stullerova is convening a research group GRIT -- Group on International Theory at the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University where research on realism and critical theory will be discussed.

Our Network Members were at the 2013 BISA conference held in Birmingham with the theme "Beyond the Ivory Tower: IR and the Real World". Dr Molloy convened a panel on "IR Theory after Liberalism: Realism and Political Theology in a Post-Secular Age" and presented a paper titled "E.H. Carr, Reinhold Niebuhr and the Problem of Immoral Society in IR." Dr Stullerova presented a paper titled 'The Concept of Security as Ethical Paradox' using Judith Shklar's work --considered by many as a key political theorist-- to explore ethical aspects of security via Shklar's notion of 'cruelty as the worst evil.'

Prof Richard Beardsworth has left Florida International University to join Aberystwyth University. Richard began his new role as chair of International Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations in September 2013.

Dr Sean Molloy has moved from University of Edinburgh to the University of Kent to take up a Readership at the School of Politics and International Relations.



Forthcoming Publications

Behr H (forthcoming) Global Security and Public Discourse: A Morgenthauian Approach, In: Daddow O, Hall I, and Bevir M (eds.) *Interpreting Global Security*. London: Routledge.

Behr H and Rösch F (forthcoming) Ethics of Anti-Hubris in Morgenthau. In: Jodok, T (ed.) *Realism, Religion and International Relations*. London: Routledge.

Behr H and Molloy S (eds.) (2013) Realism Reconsidered: New Contexts and Critiques. *International Politics*, advance online publication 20 September doi:10.1057/ip.2013.31

Dunne T, Hansen L and Wight C (2013) The End of International Relations theory? *European Journal of International Relations* 19(3)405-425.

Lebow RN (forthcoming) International Relations and Identity. In Booth K and Erskine T (eds.) *International Relations Theory Today*. London: Polity.

Lebow RN. Preface. In: *On Emotions and Passions in International Politics: Beyond Mainstream International Relations*. By Jean-Marc Coicaud (ed.) forthcoming. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Luke T (2013) The 'Natural Science Model' in American Political Science--How is it Natural, Science, and a Model?" *New Political Science*, 35(3) 339-358.

Rösch F (forthcoming) Pouvoir, Puissance, and Politics: Hans Morgenthau's Dualistic Concept of Power? *Review of International Studies*.

Rösch F (2013) The Human Condition of Politics: Considering the Legacy of Hans J. Morgenthau for International Relations. *Journal of International Political Theory* 9 (1-2)1-21.

Williams MC (2013) In the beginning: The International Relations enlightenment and the ends of International Relations theory. *European Journal of International Relations* 19(3) 647-665.

For more publications, please check our website: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/classicalrealism/>

Second Workshop in Ottawa, 20-21 June 2014

Preparation is underway for the Network's second workshop. The event will be co-hosted by Prof Michael Williams and will be held on 20-21 June 2014 in Ottawa, Canada. More information about the event will be published in the Network's website:

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/classicalrealism/workshop>

Network Members @ the ISA 2014

Our Network partners and members will be attending the annual convention of the International Studies Association in Toronto, Canada from 26-29 March 2014. Some activities of our members at the conference are listed below, for the full programme visit: <http://files.isanet.org/Documents/Conferences/Toronto2014/Toronto+2014+-+Program.pdf>

Vibeke Schou Tjalve

Wednesday 4:00-5:45: "Why Does Hans Morgenthau Matter Now?"

Thursday 8.15-10:00 "The Political Discourse of History: Fifteen Years of IR History Reconsidered"

Hartmut Behr

Wednesday 1:45-3:30 "Morgenthau in America"

Wednesday 4:00-5:45: "Why Does Hans Morgenthau Matter Now?"

Timothy Luke

Saturday 1:45-3:30 "What Does Critical Environmental Politics Look Like?"

Sean Molloy

Friday 1:45- 3:30 "Political Theology and International Relations"

Michael C. Williams

Wednesday 4:00-5:45 Critical Security Studies Methods Café

Thursday 10:30- 12:15 Theorizing Security Communication and Democracy

Lene Hansen

Wednesday 4:00-5:45 Critical Security Studies Methods Café

Saturday 10:30 -12:15 "War and Security or War/security: Critically Reassessing Boundaries

Richard Beardsworth

Thursday 8:15-10:00 "Intergenerational Global Ethics"

Ned Lebow

Wednesday 10:30-12:15 "Counterfactuals in International Relations: Making Sense of Complexity - or Adding Noise to the Signals?"

Photo Credits: Workshop photo by Ms Janine Whitfield from the University of Sunderland; Book image by Walter Corno.

CRITICAL THEORY

&

CLASSICAL REALISM

About the Network

This innovative research network engages two major movements in the social sciences which are usually treated as separate and even opposite - "Classical Realism" and "Critical Theory" - with the aim of providing new thinking for social sciences and policy-making.

The research network will:

- focus on both movements' shared analysis of Western modernity and crises;
- investigate their emphasis on the return of humanity into politics to elaborate towards alternative political orders, and;
- explore responses to present-day problems in the context of environment, security, and the global public sphere.

More details about the project and information about how to get involved can be found in the website:

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/classicalrealism/>

The creation of the Network and its activities are made possible through the generous support of the Leverhulme Trust and Newcastle University.

Contact Us

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