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)
- “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 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/]
Forthcoming Publications


Vassilios Paipais

Waltz and the World: Neorealism as International Political Theory?

Adam Humphreys

Pointing to the Future: Critical Theory Meets Realism

Working Towards Critical Realism: Scientific Man, Power Politics, and Democratic Decline

Timothy W. Luke

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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.

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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.

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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.'

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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.

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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.

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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.

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?”

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

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

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Supported by:
The Leverhulme Trust