

ETHICS IN
WORLD POLITICS:
COSMOPOLITANISM AND BEYOND?

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

The study of world politics is opening up, broadening and diversifying. But what has become of studies on the 'ethical' in this context? In the academic and policy communities increased attention is given to cosmopolitanism as a normative framework for addressing world politics. At the same time post-structural, constructivist, critical realist, feminist, and pragmatist perspectives on the ethical dimensions of world politics challenge traditional cosmopolitan assumptions. But such differences withstanding, certain common questions may be arising:

Is 'the state' any longer a useful 'space' to talk of justice and welfare? Can/should ethical responsibility be 'de-territorialised'? How are 'human rights' produced and affirmed, and what implications does this have? Can institutions - national, international and supranational - be conceived as 'moral' or 'ethical'? And in a period of bullish US supremacy what is the normative status of international laws and norms that might prevent from instability and aggression?

The aim of this workshop is to continue a conversation on ethics that is sometimes deferred in favour of theoretical or disciplinary isolation. Such a conversation must remain open and unrestricted. A synthesis of positions remains both unlikely and undesirable; rather different critical approaches can reveal different problematics and inconsistencies in the way the 'ethical' is framed in world politics. One 'Ethics' of world politics is not the goal. Rather, and as many now acknowledge, the 'ethical' is always-already political and thus open to contest and change. To that end, the workshop assembles several prominent scholars from IR, IPE, Sociology and Geography, with the aim of stimulating critical conversation about ethics. In summary, the project is underpinned by the following themes:

- 1) **Conceiving Ethics in World Politics:** World politics, however understood, needs to be thought with more conceptual rigour in order for us to think its ethics. This may involve re-conceptualising its 'space', 'time', 'technicity', etc.
- 2) **Critical Engagements:** Thinking the ethics of world politics may involve critical engagement with dominant trends (especially cosmopolitanism), and an interaction/conversation between the different positions.
- 3) **Grounding Ethics in World Politics:** The 'ethical' can be seen as 'political', as open to debate and conversation in all areas. This means thinking the terms together in both abstract and more 'grounded' contexts.

In the interests of opening up space for critical debate we would ask that participants keep the presentation of their papers to between fifteen and twenty minutes. This will be followed by up to an hour of discussion amongst the larger group.

Programme

10: 45 WELCOME, ROOM SL. 50

11: 00 – 13: 00 SESSION 1, SL. 50:

Chair: Robert Fine

Papers:

Jan Aart Scholte	'Pluralizing Cosmopolitan Ethics?'
Heikki Patomakki	TBC
Tony McGrew	'Republican Cosmopolitanism'
Paola Robotti	'The Ethical Properties Attributed to Markets'

13: 00 – 14: 00

BUFFET LUNCH, PAIS COMMON ROOM

14: 00 – 15: 30

SESSION 2, ROOM SI .50:

Chair: Robin Cohen

Papers:

Stuart Elden

'Kant, Cosmopolitanism and Geography'

Maja Zehfuss

'The Politics of Ethics'

Kimberly Hutchings

'Feminist Ethics and Political Violence'

15: 30 – 16: 00

COFFEE, PAIS COMMON ROOM

16: 00 – 18: 00

SESSION 3, ROOM SI. 50:

Chair: Richard Higgott

Papers:

Andrew Linklater

'The Harm Principle and Global Ethics'

Will Smith

'Cosmopolitanism and the Politics of Military
Intervention'

Nick Vaughan-Williams

'Protesting Against Citizenship'

Toni Erskine

TBC

ORGANISATION & THANKS

After the workshop, at 6.30, there will be the opportunity to go and see **Judith Butler** presenting a paper on 'Torture and the Ethics of Photography'. We have bought tickets for this event should anyone wish to attend. Those who attend this lecture can follow on to Kenilworth afterwards for the meal

From 7.30 we will be reconvening for drinks and an evening meal at 'The Cross' in Kenilworth. This will give us the opportunity to continue the discussions of the day and/or forget about them over a good bottle of wine!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following institutions for their generous support and encouragement:

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