Panel Proposal for:

Millennium Annual Conference 2011

‘Out Of The Ivory Tower: Weaving the Theories and Practice of International Relations’

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
22-23 October 2011

Proposed Panel Title:

“Deconstructing the Ivory Tower: The Practice of Theory in International Relations (IR)”.

Panel Proposers (and Contacting Author/Organiser):

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To Conference Organisers: If possible, please evaluate each paper separately if the Panel Proposal as a whole is rejected.

If you would like to contribute to an exchange about the social meaning of theories in IR today, then please send an abstract of your (future) paper. The organisers will come back to you very shortly to inform you about the outcome. We are happy to have up to 5 presenters on the panel. Also, if you want to act as chair or discussant, please let us know. Please submit your abstract no later than Monday 25th April 2011.

Kind regards,
David Guttormsen and Ben Jacoby

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All too often are academics and especially International Relations (IR) scholars accused of being distant from the actual practice of current affairs in world politics. This panel addresses such claims and endeavours to make sense of them, in addition to the discipline’s modus operandi, by giving a voice to a broader spectrum of researchers, which represent multiple perspectives on different concepts and theories. What is at stake is the practice of theoretical developments, not only what theory is and does on its own terms, but how it is formed, and forming, into the social context from which it originates. This panel takes radical distance from conventional IR frameworks and posits questions concerning their structural constitution through acts of reproduction and innovation. In order to deconstruct the so-called “Ivory Tower”, this effort consequently raises questions of the actual practice of theory and issues associated with the multi-paradigmatic debate within and beyond IR as a discipline. Collectively, the papers in this panel contribute to facilitating for more empirically sound policy-research as well as to scrutinise the architecture of IR itself as an academic discipline.

*Keywords: International Relations, academia, theory, practice, dialogue, future research agenda, multi-paradigm, policy.*

(words: 195)

[5 paper abstracts to be inserted below]