

International Relations/Political Science

Academic Year 2019 – 2020

Doctoral Seminar in International Relations/Political Science

RI/SP002 | Autumn | 6 ECTS

Mondays from 12:15 to 14:00 (P3-506)

Course Description

This seminar is intended to introduce participants to a broad range of theoretical approaches, contemporary debates, and research strategies relevant for developing a PhD thesis project in international relations and political science. Several recent debates will be discussed at the beginning of the course. Afterward, faculty from the IR/PS department will be invited to present their research. Required readings for these sessions will be posted on the course moodle page in advance of each session. Seminar participants will also have an opportunity to present and receive critical feedback on a draft version of their PhD prospectus. A session will also be devoted to mentoring issues (proposal writing, conference participation, publication strategies, and peer networking). The preliminary doctoral research prospectus is due on December 17.

> PROFESSOR

Liliana Andonova

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2.30pm

> ASSISTANT

Eliza Urwin

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Office hours: Mondays 14:30 -16:00

(MdlP-P2-601)

Syllabus

This seminar is intended to introduce participants to a broad range of theoretical approaches, contemporary debates, and research strategies relevant for developing a PhD thesis project in international relations/political science. Recent general debates will be discussed and faculty from the IR/PS department will be invited to present their research and experiences. Seminar participants will also have an opportunity to present and receive critical feedback on a preliminary version of their PhD prospectus. A session will also be devoted to mentoring issues (proposal writing, conference participation, publication strategies, and peer networking).

In addition to regular participation in the seminar, first year PhD students (who are required to take the seminar) will be expected to turn in a preliminary doctoral research project paper, which will be due on 17 December.

Readings: All required readings will be available on the Moodle page of the course prior to the class.

Evaluation:

The seminar's success depends on up-to-date reading, active participation and the quality of your draft prospectus. Evaluation will be based upon:

Class attendance, participation, research question submission: 15%

Prospectus presentation: 35%

Final paper (preliminary doctoral research prospectus): 55%

Final papers are due on 17 December, 5pm using the Moodle *turnitin* link. Late submission of papers will be reflected as grade reduction (one half grade per day, e.g. 6->5.50->5, etc.).

Readings may be modified during the semester, and the schedule may shift during the semester to deal with unavoidable commitments.

Class Schedule

21 September – Introductions and description of the seminar

What is your favourite book or article in international relations and why?

Please send to the TA by September 17 at the latest, the reference to your favourite book or article in IR/PS, along with a live link or PDF that can be used by the class through the password protected Moodle page (PDF of 2 chapters of the book should be sufficient). These readings will be provided as a background, to animate a discussion on what are the characteristics of compelling academic work. What is distinctive about the research questions that guide them, their methodology, and theoretical and empirical insight?

28 September – Theory/methodological debates

Readings:

- Sil, Rudra, and Peter J. Katzenstein. Analytic Eclecticism in the Study of World Politics: Reconfiguring Problems and Mechanisms across Research Traditions. *Perspectives on Politics* 8:411-431, 2010
- Lake, David A. Why ‘Isms’ Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress. *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 55, Number 2 (465-480) June 2011
- Nau, Henry R. No Alternative to ‘Isms.’ *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 55, Number 2 (487-491) June 2011
- Patrick Thaddeus Jackson and Daniel Nexon, “International Theory in a Post-Paradigmatic Era: From Substantive Wagers to Scientific Ontologies,” *European Journal of International Relations*, 19:3 (2013), 543-565.
- Optional: Mearsheimer, John and Stephen Walt, Leaving Theory Behind: Why Simplistic Hypothesis Testing Is Bad for International Relations, *European Journal of International Relations*, 19:3 (2013), 427-457.

5 October – Liliana Andonova on the *Governance Entrepreneurs* research project

Readings:

- Andonova, L.B. Swiss National Science Foundation Proposal. “Governance Entrepreneurs International Organizations and Global Public-Private Partnerships”
- Andonova, L.B. 2017. [Governance Entrepreneurs. International Organizations and the Rise of Global Public-Private Partnerships](#). Cambridge University Press
Chapters 1,2,3, with focus on ch. 2 and 3.

12 October – Asking research questions

A preliminary research question is due on Thursday 8 October by email to the TA eliza.urwin@graduateinstitute.ch

The research question should be formulated as a question. It should be submitted alongside 1-2 page (double spaced) justification of why this is interesting, relevant, or pertinent question and topic to pursue as part of a PhD dissertation. The short document should also include at least 5-10 academic references of literature that has been consulted to formulate the question and which may be referred to in the document. The following web resource could be useful for the formulation of the brief summary and justification of the research question and topic (for more information see: <https://theprofessorisin.com/2011/07/12/how-to-sday-how-to-write-a-paper-abstract>).

The following readings may provide useful perspectives on formulating research questions:

- Rogowski, R. How Inference In the Social (but Not the Physical) Sciences Neglects Theoretical Anomaly. 2004. In Brady, H.E. and Collier, D. *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. Rowman and Littlefield, p. 75-83
- Geddes, B. 2003. *Paradigms and Sandcastles*. Ch. 2, p.27-47. The University of Michigan Press.
- Zinnes, Dina A. 1980. Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher. *International Studies Quarterly* 24 (September): 315-342.
- McCauley, A. & Ruggeri A. Formulating Research Questions & Designing Research Projects in International Relations, in: *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*.
- Creswell, J.W. 2014. Research Design. Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods approaches. Ch. 7 *Research Questions and Hypotheses*
- Zina O’Leary. 2010. *The essential guide to doing your research project*. Ch. 4 Developing your Research Question, p. 46-60. London, Sage Publications.

19 October – Professor on current research project
Readings to be assigned

26 October – Professor on current research project and research office
Readings to be assigned

2 November – Professor on current research project
Readings to be assigned

9 November – Professor on current research project
Readings to be assigned

16 November – Professor on current research project
Readings to be assigned

23 November – Student presentations of preliminary dissertation prospectus

30 November – Student presentations of preliminary dissertation prospectus

7 December – Student presentations of dissertation prospectus

14 December – Writing, Conference Participation, Publication Strategies, and Peer Networking

- King, Gary. 2006. Publication, Publication. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 39:119-125.

- Micheal W. Giles and James Garand. Ranking Political Science Journals: Reputational and Citational Approaches. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40: 4, 741-751
- Green, J., & Hale, T. 2017. Reversing the Marginalization of Global Environmental Politics in International Relations: An Opportunity for the Discipline. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50:2, 473-479.
- Maliniak, D., Powers, R., & Walter, B. 2013. The Gender Citation Gap in International Relations. *International Organization*, 67:4, 889-922
- Maliniak, Daniel, et al. Explaining the Theory-Practice Divide in International Relations: Uncertainty and Access. 2020. In *Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide in International Relations*, edited by Daniel Maliniak et al., Georgetown University Press, WASHINGTON, DC, 2020, pp. 1–26. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvz0hb31.5

17 December - Final papers by 5pm submitted through Moodle Turnitin link. If you do not receive a confirmation, this means that the paper has not been received and it is the student's responsibility to follow up with the TA.