Worldviews in Science, Technology and Art in International Relations

STAIR Working Group
ISA Annual Convention, New Orleans 2015

Working Group Coordinator: JP Singh (jsingh19@gmu.edu)

The working group will help to generate the sensibilities and space for international Relations (IR) as a discipline and field to matters of science, technology and art through productive intellectual research conversations. Issues of science, technology and art shape much of the everyday reality of international security, statecraft, development, design of critical global infrastructures, approaches to social justice, and the practices of global governance. Science, technology and art (i.e., in the form of creativity, the arts, architecture and design) permeate international affairs in the form of material elements and networks, technical instruments, digital technologies, systems of knowledge and scientific practices. Yet, they also challenge existing conceptual approaches and prompt us to step beyond IR canons to seek inter-disciplinary collaborations.

The working group will critically analyze the diverse worldviews, methodologies, and issue-areas for STAIR scholars. The workshop will have the following concrete objectives: (1) identify the strengths and weaknesses of the diversity of theoretical and methodological approaches in STAIR; (2) examine "hybrid" research programmes (to extend a Lakatosian metaphor) and their usefulness in understanding current problems; (3) highlight the links between worldviews and core issue areas that STAIR scholars have addressed or neglected as well as the 'regional variations' in approaches (for example, when STAIR was chartered European scholars generally liked the inclusion of art/design with science and technology whereas Canadian and U.S. scholars questioned this inclusion).
**Working Group Schedule (Participants are expected to attend all three sessions)**

Pre-conference meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2015

9:00 – 9:20 AM: Welcome (J. P. Singh) and Introductions from Participants  
Key Question: Identify your worldview in 2-3 sentences.  
(STAIR will distribute bios of participants in advance)

9:20 – 10:40 AM: Diversity of Theoretical Approaches in STAIR  
Chair: Maximilian Mayer  
Discussion Leaders: with 4-5 minutes each from 3-4 participants

10:40 – 11:00 AM Coffee and Tea Break

11:00 – 12:20 PM Diversity of Methodological Approaches in STAIR  
Chair: J.P. Singh  
Discussion Leaders: Anna M. Agathangelou & 2-3 others

12:20 – 1:30 PM Lunch  
(Note: while we are dividing the afternoon sessions into science, technology, and art these worldviews are not always so clearly delineated and segmented.)

1:30 – 2:15 PM Worldviews and Issue-areas in Science  
Chair: Michele Acuto  
Discussion Leaders: with 4-5 minutes each from 3-4 participants

2:15 – 3:00 PM Worldviews and Issue-areas in Technology  
Chair: Madeleine Carr  
Discussion Leaders: with 4-5 minutes each from 3-4 participants

3:00 – 3:20 PM Coffee and tea break

3:20 – 4:00 PM Worldviews and Issue-areas in Art  
Chair: Anna M. Agathangelou  
Discussion Leaders: Emily Merson and 2-3 others

4:00 – 5:00 PM Summary & Discussion  
Chair: Renee Marlin-Bennett  
Summary: 2-3 scholars to volunteer at the beginning of the day

Note on Discussion Leaders: Participants will sign up to briefly lead the discussion for a session of their choice. Their opening comments will serve as firestarters and will be no longer than 4-5 minutes. These comments will, in effect, serve as starting points of discussion for the session in question. A few people who serve on the STAIR Executive Committee have already offered to be discussion leaders.
ISA Conference Roundtable:  
Assessing the Diversity of Worldviews in Science, Technology and Art in International Relations  
Thursday, February 19, 2015  
1:45 - 3:30 PM  
Chair: David Hornsby

This roundtable will be comprised of our workshop participants who will identify and contact shortly after the deadline participants to sign-up.

Workshop Participants' Discussion:  
Moving Forward with Science, Technology and Art in International Relations  
Saturday, February 21, 2015  
12:30 – 1:30 PM  
Chair: Jairus Grove

This discussion will be comprised of our workshop participants. The discussion will be structured around STAIR issues discussed as the ISA. We will seek to identify the strengths and weaknesses of extant approaches in STAIR.
Working Group Coordinator

J.P. Singh

J. P. Singh is Professor of Global Affairs and Cultural Studies at George Mason University. Singh has authored four monographs, edited two books, and published dozens of scholarly articles. His book Globalized Arts: The Entertainment Economy and Cultural Identity (Columbia, 2011) won the American Political Science Association's award for best book in information technology and politics in 2012. His current book projects are: (1) Sweet Talk: Paternalism and Collective Action in North-South Trade Negotiations (Stanford University Press, forthcoming), and (2) Development 2.0: How Technologies Can Promote Inclusivity in the Developing World (Oxford University Press, forthcoming). J.P. Singh has advised international organizations such as UNESCO, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization, played a leadership role in several professional organizations, and served as Editor from 2006-09 and dramatically increased the impact of Review of Policy Research, the journal specializing in the politics and policy of science and technology. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Public Policy from the University of Southern California.

Working Group Speakers

Anna M. Agathangelou

Anna M. Agathangelou is an associate professor in Political Science and a faculty member of the Institute for Science and Technology Studies at York University. She is also the Co-director of the Global Change Institute in Nicosia Cyprus and co-founder and co-organizer of the section on Art, Science and Technology (STAIR), International Studies Association (2014). Her awards are a Social Science and Humanities Research Council, Partnership Development Grant, on “Cosmopolitanism and the local in science and nature: creating an east/west partnership” as well as a Social Science and Humanities Research Council Grant (2008-2011) for her project on security and migration in European peripheries. She has published in American Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly and Millennium: Journal of International Studies. She is currently working on a research project on reconstruction post-nuclear disaster and art.

David J Hornsby

Dr. David J Hornsby is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Assistant Dean of Humanities (Teaching and Learning), University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. David’s research interests pertain to a number of different themes as it relates to the International Political Economy including the politics of science and risk in the multilateral trading system, Canadian foreign policy in Sub-Saharan Africa, middle power cooperation, and large class pedagogy. David has published in both the biological and social sciences, and is a recognized teacher having been awarded the 2013 Faculty of Humanities Teaching and Learning Award and the Vice Chancellor’s Teaching Award (Individual) at Wits University. David has recently published a book through the Palgrave IPE series entitled: Risk Regulation, Science, and Interests in Transatlantic Trade Conflicts, and is the lead editor of Large Class Pedagogy: Interdisciplinary Perspectives for Quality Higher Education with SUN Press.
Emily Merson

My name is Emily Merson and I’m a PhD candidate in the Graduate Program in Political Science at York University in Toronto, Canada. My dissertation focuses on relationships between political self-determination and self-expression by Indigenous contemporary visual artists, curators and art historians in the context of Canadian settler colonialism. I analyze how artwork that engages with the international political dynamics of Indigenous self-determination struggles contributes to transforming conventional academic International Relations visual methods and theories of power, violence and agency. I am the Editor of the book project "Creative Justice: Artwork, Popular Cultures and World Politics" currently under review with the Routledge Popular Culture and World Politics book series. In this edited collection the authors engage with the limitations and possibilities for transforming global relationships of power and violence through artwork and participation in popular cultures across academic, activist and arts communities. As a member of STAIR, I bring a transnational feminist analysis to academic knowledge production about the global dimensions of imagination, design and artistic production.

Madeline Carr

Madeline Carr is a Lecturer in International Politics and the Cyber Dimension at Aberystwyth University. Madeline obtained her PhD in International Relations from the Australian National University in 2011. Her thesis examined the relationship between US power and Internet technology. After a short period teaching at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan, she accepted a position in the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University to initiate a new Masters in the International Politics of the Internet. Madeline is currently researching the political impediments to international cooperation on global cyber security. She teaches at undergraduate and postgraduate level on Internet Freedom, Internet governance, cyber security and the international politics of the Internet.

Renée Marlin-Bennett

Renée Marlin-Bennett is Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Her research ranges over a number of themes, including the global political economy of information; the body and international relations; the interplay of culture, markets, and politics in the evolution of rules; and International Relations theory. Her current work focuses on information and power, embodied information, and information age challenges to global orders. She is the author of two books, Knowledge Power: Intellectual Property, Information, and Privacy (Lynne Rienner Publishers, May 2004) and Food Fights: International Regimes and the Politics of Agricultural Trade Disputes (Gordon & Breach, 1993; reissued by Routledge Revivals), and the editor of one, Alker and IR: Global Studies in an Interconnected World (Taylor and Francis, 2011). She has also published several articles and book chapters. She is currently the general editor of the International Studies Association's International Studies Compendium Project (Wiley Blackwell). She previously served on the faculty of American University. She received her PhD from MIT and her BA from Pomona College.
Maximilian Mayer

Dr. des. Maximilian Mayer, M.A., born in Lindau (Germany), is a senior fellow and lecturer at the University of Bonn's Center for Global Studies (CGS). Twice from 2004 to 2007 and 2009 to 2010, he received scholarships from the German National Academic Foundation. After lecturing for two years at Institute for East Asian Studies in Bochum, he joined the CGS in October 2009 and has worked there as managing assistant between 2009 and 2013. In December 2012, he has finished his PhD project How IR might overcome its “lightness” - Technological innovations, creative destruction, and explorative realism with the highest grade (summa cum laude). Maximilian’s research interests include the global politics/policy of science, innovation, and technology; China studies (especially foreign, energy and environmental policy); global energy and environmental politics; International Relation theories. He leads the research group on “rising knowledge powers” and is co-editor of the two-volume work The Global Politics of Science and Technology. Maximilian is program co-chair of STAIR (Science, Technology, Arts and international relations) a newly established section of the International Studies Association.

Michele Acuto

Michele Acuto is currently Research Director and Senior Lecturer in Global Networks & Diplomacy in the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy (STEaPP) at University College London. Michele is also Fellow of the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (InSIS) at the University of Oxford. Michele is Director of the City Leadership Initiative, a partnership of UCL, UN-Habitat and World Bank, and coordinator of the UN-Habitat Safer Cities hub. He was previously Fellow of the Center on Public Diplomacy in the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California, and a Fellow of the Programme for the Future of Cities at the University of Oxford. He taught science and technology studies (STS) in the Faculty of Business and Government at the University of Canberra and international relations at the Australian National University. Michele is the author of The Urban Link (Routledge), editor of Negotiating Relief (Hurst), co-editor of Global City Challenges (with Wendy Steele) and Reassembling International Theory (with Simon Curtis) and of the series Cities and the Global Politics of the Environment (with Sofie Boutiliger) all for Palgrave Macmillan.