

Post-Workshop Report for ISA Catalytic Workshop Grant
on
"Bridging the Gap between Role Theory and 'Role Practice' in Foreign Policy"

Grant Recipients:

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Report on Conduct of Workshop

The 2013 ISA Catalytic Workshop on "Bridging the Gap between Role Theory and 'Role Practice' in Foreign Policy" convened, as scheduled, on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at 9:00 am in the Franciscan B room of the Hilton San Francisco. All proposed workshop participants attended and participated the workshop except one (Cameron Thies, whose other duties as a member of the ISA leadership council on the same day prevented his participation, and who notified the workshop conveners well in advance of this conflict, so that there was no disruption of the workshop schedule). In addition, four observers (Ryan Beasley, John Clark, Sebastian Harnisch, and Ozgur Ozdamar) also attended the workshop and have made plans to participate in future, related activities arising out of the workshop.

The central theme of the workshop was loosely adapted from Alexander George's book on the chasm between the academic and policy worlds (*Bridging the Gap*, United States Institute of Peace Press, 1993). This workshop sought to translate the now well-developed theoretical scholarship derived from George Herbert Mead's conceptualization of social roles—and adapted to the study of foreign policy roles by Kal Holsti and Stephen Walker, in particular—into a more applied understanding of the way roles are enacted in a regional context. It sought, in other words, to move from "role theory" to "role practice."

To this end, the two morning sessions of the workshop, on role selection and role enactment, emphasized the ways leadership and domestic political pressures influenced the translation of state roles into policy. Papers by Aggestam and by Brummer and Thies explored the political contestation of proposed state roles and the way disputes over roles are mediated by leaders. Papers by Beneš, by Malici and Walker, and by Wehner focused on the translation of roles into policy, and on the ways foreign policy roles change and adapt over time.

The afternoon sessions—"Regional Security and the Role of Policy Leadership" and "Regional Diplomacy and the Role of Domestic Context"—extended the themes from the morning session, placing them specifically in distinct regional contexts (primarily in Europe and Asia). Papers by Hirata and by Hyněk and Střítecký examined domestic conflict over regional security roles. Papers by Canter and by Krotz focused on inflection points in diplomacy over time, placing the domestic politics of foreign policy role disputes into an explicitly historical context.

In general, the papers developed for and presented at the workshop highlight the contentious domestic politics of foreign policy role selection. This is an emerging theme in scholarship on role theory in foreign policy, and one that will be taken up in future conference panels growing out of discussions at this workshop (see below).

In addition, two new themes emerged from workshop discussions that reflect the vitality of current research on role theory. First, several papers—notably, those by Beneš, by Hynek and Střítecký, and by Krotz—took special pains to locate their understanding of foreign policy roles in a specific historical context. As Beneš noted, moreover, accounts of the past, the present, and the future are always "present" in national role conceptions. That is to say, a national role conception tells us who we have been (descriptively), who we are, and who we will be (prescriptively). This theme of historicization is reflected in a panel on "Foreign Policy Role Enactment and Role Transition" proposed for the 2014 ISA meeting (see below).

A second emerging theme involves the conceptualization of foreign policy roles across multiple levels of analysis. This theme was implicit, perhaps, in the emphasis placed on domestic role contestation at the 2013 workshop, but the need for further attention to the conception of roles across levels is becoming increasingly clear. Papers at the workshop variously focused on the role of leadership (Aggestam, Brummer and Thies), coalitional and party politics (Hirata, Wehner), domestic political culture and political structures (Cantir, Hynek and Střítecký), and state interaction (Malici and Walker, Krotz). Cross-level analysis poses its own methodological challenges, of course, and these have given rise to another proposed panel for the 2014 ISA meeting on "Methodology of Role Theory" (see below).

Finally, the interaction of time (history) and level of analysis deserves further consideration. The way domestic political cycles interact with foreign policy, for example, may have cyclical influences on contests over foreign policy roles.

Overall, the workshop served its purpose of stimulating continued discussion of the ways national role conceptions are connected to foreign policy in practice, of the way domestic politics mediates this process, and of the important influences of regional difference and historical context on role selection and enactment. There is considerable momentum for ongoing and future research related to the workshop themes.

Report on Future Activities Related to Workshop

Pursuant to discussions throughout the workshop, one of the workshop conveners (Kowert) volunteered to serve as a "clearing house" for paper proposals on role theory and foreign policy for the 2014 annual meeting of ISA in Toronto. To date (as the June 1, 2013 deadline approaches), 15 paper abstracts have been received, along with multiple offers to serve as panel chair or discussant. This is a strong follow-on effect to the workshop, and one that is directly related to future publication plans, described below. These papers have tentatively been arranged to constitute three panels that will be proposed for the 2014 meeting, as follows.

1. Methodology of Role Theory

This panel examines a range of methods suited to the study of foreign policy roles and the implications for theory building of diverse methodological strategies. The first three papers are from participants in the 2013 workshop.

Chair: Paul A. Kowert

Paper 1: Cristian Cantir, "What Can Role Theorists Learn from Qualitative Methodologies?"

Paper 2: Sebastian Harnisch, "Full-spectrum Role Taking: a Two-level Role Theoretical Model"

Paper 3: Leslie Wehner, "The interpretative method in role theory research: The use and abuses of narratives"

Paper 4: Francis Baert and Luk Van Langenhove, "Revitalizing Role Theory in Foreign Policy Analysis: Introducing the Application of Positioning Theory"

Discussant: Valerie Hudson and David McCourt

2. The Selection and Contestation of Foreign Policy Roles

This panel focuses on the interaction of leadership, domestic politics and foreign policy, and on the ways this interaction influences the selection of foreign policy roles. This emerged as one of the key themes of the 2013 workshop. All of the papers are from participants or observers of the 2013 workshop.

Chair: Juliet Kaarbo

Paper 1: Ryan Beasley & Juliet Kaarbo, "Role Development and International Socialisation: Scotland's Pre-Independence Experience/Experiment"

Paper 2: Klaus Brummer and Cameron G. Thies, "Domestic Role Contestation and Role Selection"

Paper 3: John Clark, "A Typology of Foreign Policy Role Conceptions for African States"

Paper 4: Nik Hynek, "Followers from a Role-Theoretical Perspective"

Paper 5: Özgür Özdamar, "Role Contestation in Turkish Foreign Policy: The Elite and the Public"

Discussants: Keiko Hirata and Marijke Breuning

3. Foreign Policy Role Enactment and Role Transition

This panel focuses on the challenge of translating role into policy (the central theme of the 2013 workshop), the strategic interaction of roles, and the historical dynamics of role transition in the international system. Papers 2, 3, and 4 are from participants in the 2013 workshop.

Chair: Stephen G. Walker (tentative)
Paper 1: Nicole Koenig, "Between conflict management and role conflict: The EU in the Libyan crisis"
Paper 2: Cameron Thies and Leslie Wehner, "Role Theory as a Theory for International Political Economy"
Paper 3: Ulrich Krotz, "Historicizing NRCs: The Historical Roots of Role and Purpose"
Paper 4: Stephen G. Walker and Paul A. Kowert, "Patterns of Role Transition: A Taxonomy and a Research Agenda"
Paper 5: Marijke Breuning, "Role Theory and the Foreign Policy of Inter-country Adoption"
Discussant: Cristian Cantir

In addition to these three panels, a fourth panel on role theory and the rise of China will also be submitted independently to ISA for inclusion in the 2014 program by Sebastian Harnisch, one of the observers at the 2013 workshop. This panel also reflects the workshop theme of regional contextualization.

Not only do the workshop themes continue to generate strong scholarly interest, but we expect this to translate directly into published work in much the way described in the original workshop proposal. Based on discussions over the course of the workshop, the two workshop conveners (Kowert and Walker) and two other role theory scholars (Kaarbo and Thies) are jointly preparing an edited volume on role theory and foreign policy for inclusion in the new Routledge series on role theory in international relations. This volume will consist of four parts, reflecting both the groundwork laid by the 2010 ISA Catalytic Workshop on role theory and the themes that emerged from the 2013 workshop:

Part I: Foundations
Part II: Role Selection and Contestation
Part III: Role Enactment and Interaction
Part IV: Role Change and Evolution

The first panel proposed for the 2014 annual meeting, on methodology and role theory, will likely generate papers that will supplement several already identified for the Foundations section (Part I). Panel 2, above, emphasizes leadership and domestic politics and is closely related to the Role Selection and Contestation theme (Part II). And Panel 3, above, includes papers relevant both to Part III (Role Enactment and Interaction) and Part IV (Role Change and Evolution). The volume editors anticipate using these panels, in 2014, as a final opportunity to vet papers for this volume. And we hope that this volume will serve as a key, "state-of-the-art" reference for the ongoing and rapidly evolving scholarship on role theory and foreign policy analysis.

Finally, in addition to this planned edited volume arising more or less directly out of the 2013 workshop, several workshop participants or observers (Aggestam, Brummer, Harnisch, Hynek, Krotz, Thies, and Walker, inter alia) have other forthcoming book projects to be published either in the Routledge series, or by another press.

Detailed Budget Report

The workshop organizers included five types of expenses in the grant proposal: (1) the required meeting room rental fee, (2) the expense of LCD projector, screen and netbook rental, (3) the expense of morning and afternoon coffee/tea breaks, (4) reimbursement for up to 2 nights lodging for participants (1 night for North American participants), and (5) a per diem for up to two nights for participants (1 night for North American participants). Excluded from lodging and per diem reimbursement were members of the Routledge "Role Theory and International Relations" book series editorial board (Kaarbo, Kowert, Thies, and Walker). These expenses are summarized in the table below.

Workshop Expenses, Budgeted and Actual, in US Dollars

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Meeting Room Rental	200.00	200.00
Lodging		
A. US/Canada-based participants (3 x 1 night @ \$176/night)	528.00	528.00
B. Non US-based participants (7 x 2 nights @ \$176/night)	2464.00	2112.00
Per Diem		
A. US/Canada-based participants (3 x 1 day @ \$75/day)	225.00	225.00
B. Non US-based participants (7 x 2 days @ \$75/day)	1050.00	900.00
Coffee/Tea Break (30 persons x 2 breaks x \$7)	420.00	420.00
LCD Projector, Screen, and Netbook Rental for the Day	350.00	350.00
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Subtotal	5237.00	4735.00

The expenses for the coffee/tea break and the LCD projector, screen and netbook rental are based on the figures originally provided by ISA. The workshop came in \$502.00 under budget since one of the non-North American workshop participants secured reimbursement from a grant and, consequently, did not request lodging reimbursement or a per diem from the workshop budget.