

ISA Catalytic Workshop Grant Final Report

Protecting Human Rights: Duties and Responsibilities of States and Non-State Actors

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This workshop evolved out of a conference organized by Kurt Mills and sponsored by the human rights sections of ISA, IPSA and APSA held at the University of Glasgow in June 2012. The organizers received more than 200 paper submissions, and ended up accepting about 60. After the conference the two workshop organizers chose 13 papers, based on quality and coherence with the other papers, to include in an edited volume and organized the workshop as an author's workshop to provide space for discussion about the papers and to explore linkages between them. Authors of 10 of the 13 papers ended up attending the workshop. We also invited two outside discussants (one of whom had to withdraw). In the end, we had 12 people from three continents around the table for a very intense day. The full schedule of the day has been included as an attachment.

The workshop was a significant success. All of the participants submitted revised versions of their papers for comment by the discussant and other authors. The discussion revealed significant connections between the papers and demonstrated a very high level of coherence amongst the papers, which will contribute to a more coherent volume than one frequently finds in edited volumes. The discussant, Toni Erskine, identified several key themes which will serve to further unify the collection, and has agreed to write an additional chapter mapping out these themes.

There was universal feedback that the workshop was an extremely useful exercise and had helped authors further develop and refine their papers for publication. The organizers met with several publishers in San Francisco, receiving a very positive response, and will be sending out a formal book proposal to a selection of publishers by the end of June. We will be providing further feedback to the authors and have set a deadline in the autumn for submission of final drafts of chapters, and plan to submit the final manuscript to our eventual publisher by January 2014.

Overall, the workshop was an extremely valuable and enjoyable exercise, and the organizers are extremely appreciative of the opportunity provided by ISA. We believe that the workshop has helped further the goals of ISA by supporting the discussion and dissemination of high quality research.