

The Puzzles and Possibilities of Social Media in/on International Relations

ISA 2015 Pre-conference Workshop

Co-conveners: Libby Hemphill and Susan Jackson

Post-workshop Report to ISA

In Sum

The workshop followed the general format outlined in the proposal. We focused on three main sessions centered on the challenges we face in using social media for research on international politics. The first session examined the participants' current research using social media. During the second session we discussed the type of methodological issues that arise and possible solutions including how to address ethical concerns. The latter part of that discussion transitioned the group into a discussion on (in)visibility on/through social media and the challenge of a) being more inclusive in who/what counts as part of social media research, and b) being careful about the types of generalizations we try to draw from the research, especially given the lack of broader representation on social media. The final session of the day centered on next steps.

Next Steps

The workshop participants agreed to several longer term outcomes: 1) contribute to an online network that eventually will broaden beyond this group to include others interested in social media and international politics research; 2) investigate publishing opportunities (see below); 3) put together a series of panels and working groups (e.g., a follow up panel and a working group proposal for ISA next year, a workshop at ECPR, among others).

Publishing

While at ISA Susan Jackson met with representatives from five publishing houses (Ashgate, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Rowman & Littlefield international, [transcript]). All were very positive about the potential for an edited volume on methodology, IR and social media and have contacted me with proposal forms. Several of the workshop participants are keen to be involved in this project and I will sketch a proposal for an edited volume.

Budget

Several of the workshop participants were unable to attend. Either they notified ISA in advance (e.g., absent due to relocating) or were unable to attend at the last minute (e.g., flights were canceled, family crisis). The attached receipts are for those participants who did attend the workshop as planned and were budgeted for hotel and per diem (a number of workshop participants received other travel funding).

The following will receive hotel and per diem from the ISA Workshop Budget. Please note: Daniel McCarthy has a new email address.

- Crilley (UK): rxc882@bham.ac.uk
- Halbert (USA): halbert@hawaii.edu

- Hemphill (USA): libbyh@gmail.com
- McCarthy (Australia): daniel.mccarthy@unimelb.edu.au
- Manjikian (USA): mmanjikian@regent.edu

Participants

- Rhys Crilley (PhD Candidate: UK)
- Scott Gerber (PhD Candidate: USA)
- Debora Halbert (Prof: USA)
- Libby Hemphill (Asst Prof: USA)
- Philip Howard (Prof: USA/Hungary)
- Susan Jackson (PI, Militarization 2.0: Sweden)
- Jutta Joachim (Assoc Prof: Germany)
- Daniel McCarthy (Fellow: Australia)
- Mary McEvoy Manjikian (Assoc Prof: USA)
- Nick Robinson (Assoc Prof: UK)
- Andrea Schneiker (Asst Prof: Germany)

Audience Participants

- Magnus Dau (PhD Candidate: Germany)
- Marlen Martin (PhD Candidate: Germany)
- Tim Ruhlig (PhD Candidate: Germany/Sweden)