

Report for the 2015 ISA Venture Research Workshop Grant
Responsibility in World Politics: Moral Agency, Contestation and Normativity
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Workshop Project Summary

Activity: We held a one-day workshop that brought together a number of scholars from the global international studies community who are all experts in the field of global governance and norms research in International Relations and International Law to critically examine the recent traction of ‘responsibility’ as a fundamental norm in international relations across three different policy fields, the economy, security and the environment. The workshop thus was a great means to bring together people who are all interested in responsibility but are mainly part of different academic communities given the different policy foci they take. In that sense, this workshop allowed us to come together and establish a cross-policy field dialogue in order to identify similarities and differences with regard to the concept of responsibility as used in discourses on corporate responsibility, the responsibility to protect and the shared responsibility for natural resources. The main objective was to collaborate on an edited volume entitled “Responsibility in World Politics”. We are on track to publish these papers in an edited collection with an international publisher.

Intellectual Merit and Impact on the Field

The *Responsibility in World Politics* workshop brought together 13 international relations and international law scholars working on issues of responsibility across different policy fields. To assign responsibility seems to be increasingly common in world politics. ‘Corporate social responsibility’ (CSR) has been on the rise as a policy tool to hold corporations accountable for their doings. The ‘responsibility to protect’ (R2P) releases a nation-state of its charge and instead assigns responsibility to international organizations in the name of human rights to which a majority of other states, the international community, has agreed. The ‘common but differentiated responsibility’ (CBDR) assigns states responsibility for a sustainable use of natural resources. In light of the increased reference to responsibility in global politics, the workshop established whether we can indeed talk about a turn to responsibility claims in world politics and, if so, what implications this shift bears for international society. Conventional work investigating questions of legitimacy in world politics mainly refers to compliance issues and mechanisms of holding global actors accountable to their actions (Grant and Keohane 2005). The workshop contributors take issue with this perspective as the focus on accountability reduces responsibility to questions about compliance and sanctioning while responsibility is much broader than that and in particular bears a moral dimension that would otherwise be overlooked.

Specifically, three of the workshop contributors provided a historical trajectory of ‘responsibility’ in the respective fields of security, economics and environment. In addition, for each field two further contributors added detailed case studies that focused on the organizing principle of responsibility to show how responsibility as a new benchmark plays out in their respective case. These contributions focus explicitly on the normativity as well as contestation of the concept of responsibility as well as the ethical dimension and possibilities of moral agency. During the workshop, we addressed question such as: Can collective actors be morally responsible? How much are legal and moral responsibilities linked with each other? What reference point does political responsibility have? These questions signify the complex nature of the topic. Addressing these questions across three policy fields is the novelty of this project. As a consequence, based on all nine contributions, the three historical-theoretical and six empirical case studies, the book will be able to draw some more fundamental conclusions about the turn to responsibility in world politics and its impact on international society.

In sum, the workshop was important for demonstrating the theoretically sophisticated and empirically rich work currently being undertaken on responsibility in IR theory and to bring people together who theoretically work on similar issues yet talking to different audiences based on the specific substance of their policy cases. This was also one of the main intentions of bringing different scholars together in this book project, to enable a debate across policy fields and not at least also across disciplines as responsibility figures prominently not only in IR theory but also links to international law as well as political theory. The workshop thus helped us to have a broad discussion about current research on the concept of ‘responsibility’ that serves as the foundation of the planned edited volume. We were able to confirm the key concepts of the volume, ensure the robustness and consistency of the book’s conceptual framework we provided before the workshop and to present all of the individual contributions for review.

Outcome and Publication Plans

We were able to run the workshop as a central component of a book project. The one-day workshop enabled all of the contributors to present their papers with discussant review, and for the editors and the presenters to identify common understandings of the key concepts and theoretical fit across the various papers. Next steps following from now are a revision of all papers, which is supposed to be completed in April 2015, including revising the introduction based on the contributors’ comments. The submission deadline for the final manuscript is anticipated in August this year. We intend to submit the complete manuscript to an international publisher. We were able to discuss our book proposal with Cambridge University Press at ISA which gave us positive feedback for the final manuscript.

Workshop Participants

Below is a final list of all workshop participants. In addition to that, there were three observers present throughout the day. Not all people originally applied for were able to attend the workshop. All of them had discussant roles which meant that we received all the nine chapters and the framing piece which will form the final book.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE/RANK</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>
Kirsten Ainley	Assistant Prof.	London School of Economics	UK
Virginie Barral	Senior Lecturer	University of Hertfordshire	UK
Adam Bower	Post-doc	University of Oxford	UK
Karin Buhmann	Associate Prof.	Copenhagen Business School	Denmark
Hevina Dashwood	Professor	Brock University	Canada
Toni Erskine	Professor	University of New South Wales	Australia
Robert Falkner	Associate Prof.	London School of Economics	UK
Hannes Hansen-Magnusson	Post-doc	University of Hamburg	Germany
Kathryn Hochstetler	Professor	University of Waterloo	Canada
Kelly Kollmann	Senior Lecturer	University of Glasgow	UK
Tony Lang	Professor	University of St Andrews	UK
Antje Vetterlein	Associate Prof.	Copenhagen Business School	Denmark
Antje Wiener	Professor	University of Hamburg	Germany

Itemized Budget Report

Items	Budget Amt	Budget Details
Room Rental	200.00	
Coffee Breaks	324.00	Two coffee breaks, 1.5 gallons/break (1 gallon serving 16 people, 1 gallon @ \$108) - 3x\$108
Audio-Visual	350.00	LCD, screen, netbook. No additional AV needed
Hotel	4,699.20	11 non-North Americans @ 2 nights each \$391.60; and two North American @ 195.80
Lunches	682.00	22 participants @ \$31/person for boxed lunch
Internet	275.00	1 wired connection for one laptop @ \$275
Research Assistant	600.00	One research assistant at \$15/hour * 40 hours
Participant per diem	1,800.00	11 non Northamerican participant @ \$75*2 days - and 2 Northamerican participants @ \$75 for one day each
Total	\$ 8,930.20	

Room rental and IT infrastructure:

We requested funding for a room at the conference hotel (\$200) as prompted by the ISA website as well as audiovisual equipment (\$350) to be used during the presentations. We further asked for a single wired connection for one laptop (\$275).

Accommodation & per diem:

Eleven participants traveled from overseas, i.e. Europe and Australia. For these participants we asked to cover two nights accommodation (\$195.80/night). For the two participants from North America we ask for funding for one night at the same rate. The per diem requested for our participants follows the same calculation, i.e. two days for participants from overseas (\$1,650 in total) and one day for participants from North America (\$150 in total).

Lunch/coffee breaks

We had two coffee breaks and a lunch intermission. For each of the coffee breaks we asked for and were served 1.5 gallons. We also ordered 22 boxed lunches.

Research Assistant

A research assistant based at Copenhagen Business School has assisted with relevant work with regard to the framework article for the workshop as well as the introductory chapter of the book.

In sum, we spent a bit less than the total amount that was granted to us initially (US\$11,096.6 as compared to US\$8,930.20). We spent the grant as indicated before the workshop took place.