



Venture Research and Workshop Grant

“Unpacking the Sending State: Regimes, Institutions and Non-state Actors in Diaspora and Emigration Politics”

Workshop Report by the Grant-holding Coordinators:

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April 26, 2016

1) Structure

The workshop “Unpacking the Sending State: Regimes, Institutions and Non-state Actors in Diaspora and Emigration Politics” was held on March 15, 2016 in the Hilton Atlanta hotel, as a research workshop of the 57th Annual Convention of the *International Studies Association*, Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to the workshop coordinators, Maria Koinova (University of Warwick) and Gerasimos Tsourapas (SOAS, University of London), other participants present included Yehonatan Abramson (Johns Hopkins University), Katrina Burgess (Tufts University), Sarah Garding (University of Oxford), James F. Hollifield (Southern Methodist University), Patrick R. Ireland (Illinois Institute of Technology), Covadonga Meseguer (The London School of Economics), Nikola Mirilovic (University of Central Florida), Dana M. Moss (University of California, Irvine), Daniel Naujoks (Columbia University), and Myra Waterbury (Ohio University). Marlies Glasius (University of Amsterdam) participated during an afternoon panel via Skype, and Fiona Adamson (SOAS, University of London) was unable to attend, but her paper was read and discussed by the participants, and she provided discussant comments. Nadia Marinova (Wayne State) was the workshop rapporteur. Lembe Tiky, Deputy Director of Academic Development at the International Studies Association, attended the workshop in a capacity of observer.

The program was organized as follows:

09:00-09:30	Introduction, plenary (Maria Koinova; Gerasimos Tsourapas)
09:30-11:00	<u>Session (1) States, Migration, Diaspora Policies 1</u> James F. Hollifield [Discussant: Nikola Mirilovic] Fiona Adamson [Discussant: Yoni Abramson] Patrick Ireland [Discussant: Katrina Burgess] Maria Koinova [Discussant: Katrina Burgess]
11:15-12:45	<u>Session (2): States, Migration, Diaspora Policies 2</u> Yoni Abramson [Discussant: Fiona Adamson] Sarah Garding [Discussant: Daniel Naujoks] Myra Waterbury [Discussant: Daniel Naujoks]
12:45-14:00	Lunch (offsite)
14:00-15:30	<u>Session (3): Regimes, Migration and Diaspora Politics</u>



	Katrina Burgess [Discussant: Maria Koinova]
	Gerasimos Tsourapas [Discussant: Maria Koinova]
	Dana Moss [Discussant: Maria Koinova]
15:45-17:15	<u>Session (4): Transnationalism, Diasporas & Migration Governance</u>
	Marlies Glasius [Discussant: Myra Waterbury]
	Covadonga Meseguer [Discussant: Gerasimos Tsourapas]
	Daniel Naujoks [Discussant: Gerasimos Tsourapas]
	Nikola Milirovic [Discussant: Myra Waterbury]
17:30-18:30	Concluding Session
19:30-21:00	Dinner

The workshop format required deep immersion with the work or other participants. It was structured alongside a set of theoretical questions, distributed weeks before the actual conduct of the workshop. Organizers encouraged workshop participants to embed answers to these questions in their papers, and to consider during the discussion. Papers were also distributed in advance. During the workshop presentations were limited to 5-7 min., discussants had up to 5 min to give their feedback, and the rest of the time was spent on vivid discussions of each paper.

2) Main Results

The workshop was successful in consolidating an earlier discussion among several scholars about the role of the sending state in diaspora politics and included other senior and early career scholars who have worked on the topic but from different perspectives.

The workshop confirmed the need to start theorizing not simply about the sending state as a monolithic unit, but about processes that take place within it, and how they shape different patterns of extraterritorial diaspora politics. The papers emphasized a variety of ways through which “unpacking of the sending state” could take place: through considering sending state engagement with diasporas positioned in different contexts, during different time periods of state-building practices, alongside government or party institutions and extraterritorial networks, and state and non-state actors, among other alternatives.

The workshop was divided in two thematic areas to consider theorizing about within-state processes. The first two sessions were focused primarily on factors characteristic to the state – such as strong or weak institutions, external and internal sovereignty, and territoriality of borders and supranational institutions – which shape external diaspora engagement. The second two sessions were focused primarily on regimes and governance, especially on the role of authoritarian, semi-authoritarian and democratic regimes, and how such shape party politics, control and coercion of diasporas abroad, extraterritorial voting and perceptions towards sending of remittances.

Certain issues assumed centrality of the discussions: the importance of mobilization (identified in papers and discussion of Abramson, Adamson, Burgess, Moss, Waterbury); spatiality, and engagement of diasporas positioned in different contexts (Glasius, Koinova, Tsourapas, Waterbury); authoritarian and liberal states (Burgess, Hollifield, Mirilovic, Naujoks, Tsourapas), as well as state capacity, emphasized particularly in the work of Burgess and Ireland, in addition to the problematique of the salience of institutions, as identified and referenced by Abramson, Burgess, Koinova, Naujoks, Garding, and Waterbury. Beyond structural and institutional factors, scholars identified several causal mechanisms which operate within and beyond states, such as coercion, co-optation, and diffusion, among others.



The two central issues of the workshop – state and regime – have been identified as the foci for the two edited special issues, envisaged as outputs from this workshop. A proposal for the first special issue has been already submitted and approved for further consideration by the reputed journal *Politics & Society*. The second special issue will be targeted at an equally highly ranked political science journal, after the conduct of a follow-up workshop in the fall of 2016.

3) Follow-up Workshop

This workshop will take place at Warwick University. It has been scheduled to take place in September, 2016, and will be conducted in collaboration with the ERC Starting Grant Project “Diasporas and Contested Sovereignty.” The emphasis of this workshop will be on regime-related factors and processes taking place within and beyond sending states. The workshop will also consider diaspora agency from abroad vis-à-vis sending states and third contexts to which diasporas are transnationally linked, especially focusing on diaspora practices seeking regime change or contributing to the durability of existing regimes.

4) Budget

The ISA workshop grant amounted to \$10,310. The budget was spent according to ISA financial requirements for room rental, projector and screen, wired internet, and two coffee breaks. Accommodation expenses totalled at \$3,014.95, whereas 4 international participants were allotted spending for 2 nights of accommodation, and 8 US-based participants were allotted spending for 1 night of accommodation, up to \$200 per night for each participant in line with ISA rules. In line with ISA approval for travel expenses for junior colleagues, \$1,574.93 were spent for travel in total. \$411.26 were spent for lunch offsite, and \$250 for remuneration for the workshop rapporteur. The total spending on is \$6,196.21. The remaining \$4,113.79 will be spent on travel and accommodation for the follow-up workshop in September 2016, to be supplemented with up to £2,000 GBP (\$3,100) of matching funds from sources at Warwick University.

5) Dissemination of Results

In addition to the two special edited journal issues, the coordinators plan to disseminate the results of both workshops in the following ways:

1. Organize at least two panels for the 2017 ISA conference, and present the advanced versions of the papers.
2. When the edited issues are accepted for publication and published as “online first,” present the results to a wider academic audience in collaboration between Warwick and the London Migration Research Group, an interdisciplinary consortium of migration-related academic departments at SOAS, LSE and UCL in London.
3. Organize separate meetings related to policy-makers. The two organizers will further fund-raise to secure additional funds for the policy-relevant events.

April 26, 2016



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Koinova', is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Maria Koinova

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerasimos Tsourapas', is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Gerasimos Tsourapas