‘Unsettling’ International Relations: Knowing and Unknowing the Settler Colonial Present
Working Group Agenda
ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco 2018
(Participants are expected to attend all three sessions)

Pre-conference Meeting:
Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018

The full-day workshop will be organised around a series of roundtable discussions, in which participants will respond to the overarching theme of their session in short (5-7 minute) interventions, before opening discussion to the larger group. Each roundtable will include five participants in addition to the facilitator(s), and participants will be asked which session(s) they would like to participate in, as part of the application process. The session themes were developed with a group of initial participants/researchers, but allocations will be finalised once the full group has been recruited, to accommodate for the range of interests and capacity for contributions.

9:00 – 9:30am: Welcome, Introductions and Framing
(led by Magid Shihade, Sharri Plonski, Elian Weizman and James Eastwood: WG Coordinating Team)

9:30 – 11:00am: “Situating knowledge production” – finding the gaps and learning from other fields
(facilitated by Akanksha Mehta)

This panel will ask what the field of settler colonial studies can learn from existing work in international relations and beyond concerning situated knowledges and knowledge production, drawing in particular from black/indigenous/chicana/dalit feminist studies, queer theory, Transfeminist studies, disability studies, critical race theory, and activism.

11:00 – 11:15am: Coffee Break

11:15am – 12:45 pm: “Facts on the Ground” – The (violent) links between material and discursive practices
(facilitated by Sharri Plonski)

This panel will examine the interrelation between material and discursive practices in the shaping of settler colonial power relations, in particular the way that knowledge production helps to constitute and normalise a settler colonial reality.

12:45 – 1:45pm: Lunch

1:45 – 3:15pm: “Unsettling the International Settler Colonial Present” – Disruption, Resistance and the Production of Counter-Knowledge
(facilitated by Magid Shihade)

This panel will ask how the settler colonial nature of international relations, both as empirical reality and disciplinary space, can be challenged and reconfigured. It will focus explicitly on anti-colonial/indigenous movements seeking to reclaim and decolonise settler colonial power relations.
3:15 – 3:30pm: Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00pm: Colonisers, Colonised and the Groups in Between – Race, gender and the structured subjects and agents of settler colonial relations (facilitated by Elian Weizman)

This panel will examine the role and agency of different actors in settler colonialism, asking how different subject positions (colonisers, settlers, natives, slaves, migrants, and others) can contribute to its reproduction and/or disruption.

5:00 – 5:30pm: “Wrap-Up – Planning for the Convention”

Mid-conference follow-up meeting:
Thursday, April 5th, 2018
12:30 – 1:30 pm

Wrap-up meeting:
Saturday, April 7th, 2018
12:30 – 1:30 pm