



Venture Research and Workshop Grant  
'Concept Analysis in International Relations'

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## **Workshop Report**

### **1) Structure**

The workshop 'Concept Analysis in International Relations' was held in the Kenora room in the Sheraton Centre, Toronto, on 25 March from 8am to 6pm. The schedule was as follows:

08:00	Arrival
08:15 – 08:30	Welcome, Organizational Aspects
08:30 – 09:45	Why Concept Analysis? (Berenskoetter/Plenum)
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee
10:00 – 12:00	Power (Guzzini), Security (Vuori), Identity (Lebow), Sovereignty (Aalberts)
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch (offsite)
13:30 – 15:00	Democracy (Ish-Shalom), Hegemony (Colas), Capitalism (Teschke/Wenten)
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee
15:15 – 16:15	Society (Kessler/Herborth), Integration (Diez)
16:15 – 17:30	Globalization (Stetter), Intervention (Chandler)
17:30 – 18:00	Review of Discussion (Plenum)
18:00	End of Workshop
18:30	Dinner

The workshop was attended by 16 scholars, pretty much the number envisioned by the grant holder/organiser. Three participants listed in the original proposal (Antoine Bousquet, Holger Stritzel, Inanna Hamati-Ataya) were not able to make their way to Toronto. I was informed about these cancellations in due time and notified ISA accordingly. Holger Stritzel was replaced by his co-author, Juha Vuori.

In addition to the thirteen official participants listed on the reimbursement document, the workshop was attended by three 'observers': Benjamin Herborth (University of Groningen and co-author with Oliver Kessler), Matthew Eagleton-Pierce (SOAS, University of London) and Nicholas Michelsen (King's College London)

All presenters provided papers in advance which were shared through a dropbox folder.

## **2) Main Results**

The Toronto workshop was productive in three broad ways.

First, the workshop brought together a group of IR scholars who all had worked, or are currently working, on key concepts but have done so largely without discussing their approaches with each other. Thus, the workshop proved to be an opportunity to establish and enhance an epistemic community on concept analysis.

This was made possible also because, second, all participants, including the observers, had prior access to and were actively involved in critically discussing the papers. Consequently, authors received substantial feedback. This was important not just for the presenters but also for the broader project, as the papers were first drafts of chapters forming an edited volume (see below).

Third, the workshop confirmed the need for having a careful conversation, and to think clearly, about 'concept analysis' – its meaning (what is concept analysis?), aims (why concept analysis?) and method (how to do concept analysis?). It showed that scholars approach this task very differently and that few, if any clear frames of reference exist in IR which help to systematically sort through this plurality. As outlined in the grant proposal, this 'finding' was expected and, indeed, the very rationale for the project.

In that respect, discussions also highlighted that the aim should not and cannot be to come up with *the* approach, that is, to establish an orthodoxy of concept analysis (nor to endorse that 'everything goes'). Rather, the workshop was vital in recognising and discussing different approaches and, specifically, (i) to make authors aware of the need to clearly articulate their particular approach and (ii) to prepare the ground for establishing 'ideal types' of concept analysis.

## **3) Follow-Up Workshop**

As noted in the proposal, the grant holder is organising a follow-up workshop at SOAS, University of London. It will take place on Saturday, 19 July 2014. In this workshop, 15 authors participating in the book project (see below), including the three who did not present their drafts in Toronto, will meet to discuss their (improved) draft chapters.

## **4) Budget**

The Toronto workshop made use of the projected funds for 13 participants from Europe (two nights accommodation and two per diems each), room rental, audio-visual rental, two coffee breaks and wire transfer fees. As noted in the proposal, the remaining \$4,000 will be used to fund travel expenses and accommodation for participants of the SOAS workshop.

In addition, the grant holder secured £1,500 (about \$2,500) supplementary funding from SOAS. This grant will be used for catering at the SOAS workshop and to pay an assistant helping me with organising the workshop and putting together the volume. I will provide a full budget report following the SOAS workshop (in early August).

## 5) Dissemination and Planned Output

The grant holder/workshop organiser signed a contract with SAGE in October 2013 for an edited volume on 'Concepts in World Politics'. The volume is planned to have 16 chapters (fifteen concepts, plus introduction) and the two workshops serve as two vital fora to present, discuss and refine chapter at different stages and establish a shared framework. If everything goes according to plan, the manuscript will be submitted to the publisher at the end of October 2014, with publication expected sometime in 2015.

In addition to this book, the grant holder will write an article discussing different approaches to concept analysis aimed for publication in an ISA journal. In addition, he is putting together a panel on concept analysis for the 2015 ISA conference in New Orleans.

London, 3 May 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Berenskoetter', written in a cursive style.

Felix Berenskoetter