

2009 International Studies Association Annual Convention, NYC  
Catalytic Workshop Final Report

**BEYOND A POLITICS OF SECURITY?**

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**Proceedings**

The Workshop entitled, “Beyond a Politics of Security?” organized by Asli Calkivik, University of Minnesota, and Raymond Duvall, University of Minnesota, convened as scheduled on February 14, 2009. All listed participants attended the meeting with the exception of Jutta Weldes, Bristol University, who could not travel to New York City for family reasons. We had two other participants who were not on the initial list join the conversations - Shane Brighton, Birkbeck College-University of London, who presented a co-authored article with Tarak Barkawi and Guillermina Seri, Union College. The day-long Workshop opened up space for very engaging and stimulating conversations. During the final session, all participants agreed to continue with the goal of joint publication of papers and made plans to hold a second meeting in Fall 2009 in the United Kingdom so as to present final versions of each paper submitted to the Workshop.

The Workshop was divided into five sessions. During the first four sessions participants’ early drafts of papers were discussed. In order to leave room for extensive discussions, a brief introduction of papers by their authors was followed by questions and comments from the participants. The last session was devoted to a conversation on the next steps about this collaborative project. There were no discussants assigned to the panels with the idea to encourage free conversations among participants without having any one setting the tone. This approach proved to be very fruitful. The full program of the Workshop was as follows:

- 9:00 am – 10:15 am    Session 1:  
                                 Asli Calkivik, University of Minnesota  
                                 Michael Dillon, Lancaster University
- 10:15 am – 10:30 am Recess
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Session 2  
                                 Tarak Barkawi, University of Cambridge, and Shane Brighton,  
                                 Birkbeck College London  
                                 Mark Neocleous, Brunel University
- 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch Break
- 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm    Session 3  
                                 Guillermina Seri, Union College  
                                 Claudia Aradau, the Open University
- 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm Recess
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Session 4  
                                 Julian Reid, King’s College London  
                                 Raymond Duvall, University of Minnesota
- 4:30 pm – 4:45 pm Recess
- 4:45 pm – 5:30 pm Session 5 - Wrap –Up

The first session, which featured presentations by Michael Dillon and Asli Calkivik, who presented her paper entitled “Times in/Times out: On the meanings of dismantling security”. It witnessed very engaging and productive conversations around the overarching theme of the Workshop - “Beyond a Politics of Security?” Conceptions of temporality and of life undergirded by politics of security; how questions regarding temporality fold into a broader analytic of order/knowledge in the works of Michel Foucault; questions of method in this investigation that aim to break apart the architecture of “security”; conceptualizations of political subjectivity beyond the subject of security were some of the themes that were raised during the course of conversations.

During the second session, the co-authored article of Tarak Barkawi & Shane Birbeck entitled “Powers of War: Critique, Armed Force, and the Sociology of Knowledge” and Mark Neocleous’s presentation of his paper, “The Preservative of Terror: Dismantling the Security of International Law”, were the focus of conversations. At the center of engagements was the prime object of security studies – namely, war and peace. The discussions around these papers brought to the table questions regarding the ways in which an order of war is upheld by a certain order of knowledge and an order of peace is implicated in an order of law.

After the lunch break, the third session re-convened to proceed with conversations around the papers presented by Guillermina Seri, entitled “Providing (In)Seguridad: Democracy and Police Governance in Argentina” and by Claudia Aradau, entitled ““Security and Ambiguous Universality””. While Seri’s paper raised the theme of historical, contextually specific meanings of security/insecurity and the importance of attending to these particularities, Aradau’s paper enabled engaging exchanges around questions about conceptualizations of the universal and the particular, the potentiality of claims to universality for conceptions of subjectivities beyond a politics of security.

Conversations during the fourth session revolved around the presentations of Raymond Duvall and Julian Reid. “What are the implications of hyperbolization of security as it enacts novel forms of techno-politics of life? What does it mean to push the limits of practices of security to its outmost limits? Could limits of a politics of life be turned back upon themselves? Could those very limits that constrain life possibly endanger a contentious politics over and beyond life?” were only a few of the many themes that shaped the course of conversations during this session.

The fifth and final session made space to hear from participants their thoughts on questions regarding the pursuit of collaboration around the main question that animated the Workshop. All participants agreed to pursue this collaborative project and to meet later in the year, Fall of 2009, so as to present fully developed versions of their respective papers with a view to submit them as a collection in a special issue. The question of possible venues of for publication was raised and discussed together with possible sources of funding that could be used towards convening the follow-up meeting, which was agreed to be held in the United Kingdom at Bristol University.