

*Rethinking hierarchies in regional orders – Naples 13-15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018*

**Winter Workshop:**  
***Rethinking regional orders: Hierarchies and Heterarchies***

13-15<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Università L'Orientale, Naples

**Convenors**

**Ruth Hanau Santini**, University of Naples, L'Orientale

**Francesco N. Moro**, University of Bologna

**Call for Papers**

The University of Naples, L'Orientale welcomes paper proposals for its first Winter Symposium on *Rethinking hierarchies in regional orders*, which will take place between December 13-15<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Looking at several world regions, from the Middle East and North Africa to South East Asia, one is increasingly left with a sense of inadequacy of transatlantic IR analytical lenses in accounting for the shifting sands in regional security dynamics. Scholars adopting mainstream IR approaches have largely focused on the regional balances of power, the rise and decline of potential hegemon or challengers, and the impact of the end of bipolarity and the rise of unipolarity on regional orders. Assumptions of basic tenets of international system (such as anarchy, self-help logic) have been widely held as functioning in these contexts. The application of similar approaches to other regions (and problems) does not, however, bring similarly convincing results. Some scholars have been opening up the black box of polarity at the international system level (Donnelly 2009; Layne 2012; Acharya 2014). Many of them have attempted to show the complex nature of existing relations among state and non-state actors at the international and domestic level which could be encapsulated by multiple hierarchies among actors rather than by a single defining ordering principle.

The workshop will focus on the contribution to understand regional orders offered by New Hierarchy Studies in IR. The rationale is two-fold. First, the objective is to integrate the findings of regional IR, often under-represented in the scholarly debate, to analyse emerging orders in different world regions, such as MENA, Central Asia, the Sahel, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia. Second, this effort is also linked to the recent acknowledgment by many IR scholars of the existing under-theorization of hierarchy in IR and the need to better understand different kinds of hierarchies and the ways in which they can operate (Nexon 2009; Zarakol 2017).

## *Rethinking hierarchies in regional orders – Naples 13-15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018*

Many scholars have questioned the centrality of the relevance of anarchy as organizing principle for thinking about the international system, and, in parallel, a new strand of studies has re-conceptualized hierarchy by differentiating among several kinds of hierarchies (Mattern & Zarakol, 2016; McCounaghey, Musgrave and Nexon, forthcoming). These scholars have stressed, for instance, how one of the key conceptual problems in the artificial dichotomy between anarchy and hierarchy in mainstream IR theory has been their correspondence with the distinction between domestic (hierarchy) and international context (anarchical) (Zarakol 2017). In that context, Griffiths distinguishes between a so-called 'heteronomy literature', which emphasizes the diversity of political orders across time and space (Donnelly, 2012a, 2012b; Hobson and Sharman, 2005; Spruyt, 1994), and a 'hierarchy literature', which holds, contra Waltz, not only that hierarchical relations have existed in supposedly anarchical space, but that hierarchies can be un-packed (Cooley, 2005; Cooley and Spruyt, 2009; Donnelly, 2009; Lake, 2009; Mattern and Zarakol, 2016; Milner, 1993; Sharman, 2013) (Griffiths 2017).

Trailblazers in this sense are those analyses arguing that the lack of a declared hierarchy by no means paves the way for anarchic-based accounts of international, or regional, politics. The focus is on the multiple, tangled hierarchies that make up much of an increasingly heterarchical world politics where different actors occupy different rankings according to the category of power (Donnelly 2009: 64). The Workshop welcomes papers that analyse:

- Empirical analyses which recognize the heterarchical nature of regional orders, how they come about, their main constitutive elements, and their sources of legitimacy.
- Different regional orders' hierarchical systems. Studies can focus on hierarchies based on different kinds of material power (the nature of asymmetric economic and trade relations, ranking in military matters, including defense spending, degree of military technological development and defense alliance system) and ideational resources (degree of legitimacy of the political order, shared values, worldview).
- The intersection between New Hierarchy Studies and different IR theoretical approaches, in particular- liberal/rationalist ones (Lake 2009, but also Ikenberry 2011 and Pouliot 2010), social network-based (McCounaghey, Musgrave and Nexon, forthcoming) and postcolonial ones (Jabri 2012).

More broadly, we welcome proposals and share an outlook of global politics based on hierarchical, and heterarchical rather than anarchic, lenses. In the words of Mattern and Zarakol, "reorientation along these lines invites us to envision world politics as a system of multiple, varied, internally differentiated systems of super- and

*Rethinking hierarchies in regional orders – Naples 13-15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018*

subordination that include but are not limited to those among states (Mattern and Zarakol 2016: 631).

## **Location & Format**

The Workshop, which will take place in central Naples, is organised by Ruth Hanau Santini, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Relations at the Università L'Orientale in Naples and Francesco N. Moro, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Università di Bologna.

The event will start on Thursday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> with a welcome dinner. Papers will be presented on Friday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and in the morning of Saturday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. A roundtable with Prof. **Jack Donnelly** (Denver), Prof. **Daniel Nexon** (Georgetown) and Prof. **Ayse Zarakol** (Cambridge) will take place on the afternoon of Friday.

The full program will be finalized in the Summer.

## **Paper Submission**

To submit a paper proposal, please send your name, affiliation, contact information together with a short bio and abstract (up to 500 words including paper title) to Irene Costantini at: [icostantini@unior.it](mailto:icostantini@unior.it) and Edoardo Baldaro at: [edoardo.baldaro@sns.it](mailto:edoardo.baldaro@sns.it) by **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. Full papers are expected by November 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.

A selection of papers presented at the conference will be considered for publishing as a special issue in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

## **Logistics**

The workshop carries no fee. While travel expenses will not be covered, meals will be provided to all attendants throughout the workshop. Information about possible accommodation and other logistical details will be provided upon acceptance of the paper.

## References

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