

BISA Poststructural Politics Working Group

Report to the BISA Annual General Meeting December 2007

During 2007 the Poststructural Politics Group has continued to thrive and its global membership now comprises over 300 academics and post-graduate students.

In March the group organised a highly successful workshop, entitled 'Dividing Practices: Race, Gender and Economic Inequality', hosted by the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Speakers included: Naeem Inayatullah (Ithaca College), Vivienne Jabri (King's College, London) and Mustapha Pasha (University of Aberdeen). The event was particularly well-attended by post-graduate students representing the Universities of Warwick, Manchester and Sussex.

On November 10th, the group co-organised another workshop, 'Security, Aesthetics and Visual Culture', hosted by the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy', Queen's University, Belfast. Speakers included: Alex Danchev (Nottingham University), Lene Hansen (University of Copenhagen) RBJ Walker (University of Victoria) and Cindy Weber (Lancaster University). This event was a collaborative venture with the BISA 'Art and Politics Working Group' and included the participation of a range of academics and practitioners from disciplines across the Social Sciences and Humanities, including Cultural Studies, Art History, Security Studies and English (up to 60 in total). The group would like to thank Dr Debbie Lisle and Dr Dan Bulley for all the work they put into a very successful workshop. The interdisciplinary nature of the workshop made for a particularly interesting event.

The group is making a significant contribution to the programme of the BISA Annual Conference at the University of Cambridge with six panels consisting of over twenty-five papers on a range of themes in IR theory, post-colonial politics and security studies including: 'Border Imaginaries and the War on terror'; 'Rethinking Emancipation: the Normative Dimension of Critical Security Studies'; 'Representing the Nation: the Power of Symbols in Anti-Colonial Movements'; 'Practices of Ethics: Relating/Responding to Difference in International Politics'; 'What does it mean to be 'critical' in international studies?'; and 'Securitization and Everyday Life'. All panels include a mix of institutions as well as established and junior academics.

Following the group's co-sponsorship of the interdisciplinary conference, 'London in a Time of Terror', a contract for an edited volume entitled 'Terrorism and the Politics of Response' has been secured with Routledge as part of the new series in 'Critical Terrorism Studies' and will be published in 2008.

Plans for 2008 are to include a major international conference in July, which will be discussed and finalised at the group's AGM at the BISA Conference in Cambridge. We have already received one expression of interest to organise an event on the theme of 'International Relations and the Postcolonial'.

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Group Convenors
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