

# **BISA Poststructural Politics Working Group**

Report to the BISA Executive October 2008

During 2008 the Poststructural Politics Group has continued to thrive and attract new postgraduates and staff to its global membership.

In May the group organised a highly successful inter-disciplinary workshop, entitled 'Calculating Uncertainties', hosted by the Centre for Politics and International Studies, Keele University. Invited speakers included: Ben Anderson (Durham University), Dan Bulley (Queen's University, Belfast), Martin Coward (University of Sussex) and Mick Dillon (Lancaster University). The workshop aimed to foster debate around the politics of certainty and uncertainty and how this relates to calculations of the political and to claims for truth and objectivity in global political practices. It was very well attended (c.50 participants), particularly by post-graduate research students. Special thanks are due to the local organiser of the event, Luis Lobo-Guerrero.

Once again the group will make a significant contribution to the programme of the BISA Annual Conference, to be held this year at the University of Exeter. All four panel proposals were accepted by the programme chairs: 1) 'Space, Sovereignty and Human Rights in the War on Terror'; 2) 'Alternative Studies of the Political: The Implications of Psycho/Schizo Analysis'; 3) 'Sovereignty, Biopolitics, Governmentality'; 4) 'Subjectivity and Practices of Violence'. This year's panels were convened by Simona Rentea and Andreja Zevnik both of the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University. We would like to thank them for all their hard work in putting together what promises to be an excellent line up of papers.

The group was also very pleased to be able to support the 'Popular Culture and (World) Politics Conference', at the University of Bristol on 11 and 12 September 2008, by contributing towards the cost of a wine reception.

In September the proceedings of the 'London in a Time of Terror' conference were published as *Terrorism and the Politics of Response* (Routledge Critical Terrorism Studies Series).

Funding of £900 is sought from BISA for 08/09 to enable two forthcoming workshops. The first aims to investigate the politics of sustainability and is planned to take place at the University of Exeter in May 2009. The second, to be co-organised with Mustapha Pasha and hosted by the University of Aberdeen in October 2009, will focus on the theme of poststructuralism and capital. The funds, to be split equally between the two events, are needed to contribute to the costs of: room hire, refreshment, and publicity; travel and accommodation expenses of invited speakers; and bursaries for postgraduate attendance.

Plans for output dissemination include a working paper series to be made available on-line together with a special section/issue of an appropriate journal.

On behalf of the membership of the group we wish to express our thanks to the BISA Executive for their continued support of its activities.

Accompanying this report is a statement of accounts for the period 07/08.

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Group Convenors

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