

The BISA Working Group on International Relations, Security and Religion

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Working Group Convenors

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2. The Working Group on International Relations, Security and Religion (WG IRSR) is multidisciplinary and seeks to develop understanding of religion as a dynamic in international relations, whether as a source of conflict and peace or a resource in conflict resolution. In so doing, it seeks to develop a credible and separate identity for the study of Religion and Security, raising its profile in the academic and policy arena.

3. The Working Group expanded to 65 members during its second year, continuing to attract new scholars through the panels that it has fielded.

New Website

4. The Working Group website is now linked to and lodged with the Cambridge Programme on Religion and Ethics in War and Peace-Making, (<http://relwar.wordpress.com/bisa-working-group/>) hosted by the Von Hugel Institute Centre for the Study of Faith in Society, courtesy of Dr George Wilkes, the Programme Director. The Working Group website is managed by Gorazd Andrejc, St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge. The Working Group anticipates collaborating closely with Dr Wilkes' programme in the year 2008-2009.

Seminars/Conferences

5. The Working Group on International Relations, Security and Religion has supported a number of projects in the year 2007-2008:

BISA Annual Conference

6. At the BISA Annual Conference in December 2007, it fielded one panel on International Relations, Security and Religion. Professor Adrian Hyde-Price was in the Chair, with Professor James Mayall speaking on Religion, Politics and Conflict in the Sub-Indian Continent: Reflections from an IR Perspective; Dr Sara Silvestri speaking on 'With or Against Us: facets of political participation, integration, protest and violence involving Islam and Muslims in Europe', Dr Pervaiz Nazir speaking on

'Islamism, Democracy and Secularism in Pakistani Politics in the Regional and Global Context', and Ms Stacey Gutkowski speaking on '1970s Northern Ireland and the Evolution of British Policy Towards Religious Violence.'

BISA Annual Conference, University of Exeter, 15-17 December 2008

7. For December 2008, the Working Group fielded 3 panels. Rosemary Durward, RMAS, was Convenor of and Discussant for the panel, God and War. William Bain, Lecturer in International Relations Theory was Chair, and papers delivered were: Lee Marsden (University of East Anglia) on 'God, War and Iraq', Andrew Todd (St Michael's College, Cardiff) on 'Military Chaplains and the Ethics of Conflict, Sandy Livingston (Aberdeen University) on, 'Trust Me! Jesus Would Go to War too', Nicholas Kerton-Johnson (University of Bristol), 'Coercing Solidarity? The Secular and Religious in US Exceptionalism', and Ivan Manokha (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris), on 'The History of Modern Military Humanitarianism'. Rosemary Durward and Lee Marsden plan on submitting a book proposal to Ashgate Publishing, based around these papers, together with a selection of the Sandhurst Conference papers in the New Year.

8. The panel, 'Religion, Order and Dissent, was convened and Chaired by Sara Silvestri (City University) with Mustapha Kamal Pasha (Aberdeen) as Discussant, Alexandre Christoyannopoulos (Kent University) on 'Him Only Shalt Thou Serve': a Christian Anarchist Critique of the Wesphalian International Order, Sara Silvestri, 'Religious Dissent and Alternative Global Order: The Case of Hitzb ut Tahrir', Tuncay Kardas (Sakarya University, Turkey), State Security and Religious Identity in Turkey', John Bradley (Edinburgh) on The Role of Religio-Ethnic Communities in Lebanon: Do they help or hinder the security and stability of the state' , and Saleem Khan (London University) on.'Religious Nationalism and Sectarian Violence in Pakistan'.

9. The panel, 'Community Engagement for the Purposes of Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Radicalisation: Reflections, Critiques and International Dimensions is convened by Basia Spalek, (Birmingham University), with Basia speaking on 'Community Engagement, Counter-terrorism and Counter-radicalisation: controversies and emerging perspectives within western liberal democratic states', Rachel Briggs (DEMOS) speaking on 'Building Strong Communities to Tackle the Terror Threat', Bill Tupman (Exeter University) on 'Bottom-up, not top-down: misunderstandings about structures linked to paramilitarism and implications for successful NGO intervention', Jim Gale (Exeter University, speaking on 'Neighbourhood Policing meets International Terrorism: Local Solutions to a Global Problem', Robert Lambert (Exeter University) on 'Empowering Salafis and Islamists against Al-Qaida: A London Counter-terrorism Case Study' , and Laura McDonald (Birmingham University) on 'Countering Terrorism in the Community: Muslim Women's Reflections on International Security and the Development of an Islamic Feminist Critique.'

City University Seminars, Convened by Dr Sara Silvestri

10. City University, with events planned and organized by Co-Convenor, Sara Silvestri, hosted a number of events in 2008. On 16 January, the Working Group heard Professor Olivier Roy , (EHESS, Paris) speaking at a seminar on 'Political Islam and Radicalization', at the Centre for International Politics, City University, organized with the Study of Faith in Society, Cambridge University.

11. City University was also host to Dr Scott Thomas of Bath University on 19 November, under the Working Group, who gave stimulating talk based around developments since the publication of his book *The Global Resurgence of Religion and the Transformation of International Relations*, Palgrave Macmillan: New York, 2005, on the subject 'Peace, Security and International Relations'.

12. RMAS Conference publication: The Working Group Convenors met in July 2008 at City University with the assigned editor Matthew Bennett and his editorial assistant, Stuart Philip to talk about the publication coming from the RMAS Conference and set deadlines.

13. Chatham House, invitation from Paul Cornish, Working Group Convenor On Wednesday, 30th April, the International Security Programme at Chatham House hosted a meeting with Professor John Kelsay of Florida State University on 'Just War in Islam'. All BISA Working Group on IR, Security and Religion members were invited by Paul Cornish, Co-Convenor of the Working Group and Director of the International Security Programme. Paul Cornish will not be able to continue as Co-Convenor next year due to work commitments. His support has been exceedingly valuable as the Working Group was starting up, and Sara and I would like to thank him for his efforts on the Working Group's behalf.

ISA Annual Conference

14. At the ISA 49th Annual Conference, San Francisco, USA, 26-29 March 2008, the Working Group on International Relations, Security and Religion fielded 3 panels. The first, convened by Sara Silvestri and Chaired by Yosef Lapid, New Mexico State University, contained papers by Michael Minkenberg (Europa-Universität Viadrina) on Party Politics, Religion and Elections in Western Democracies, Scott Thomas, on 'Religion and Security', James Mayall (Cambridge University), on Religion, Nationalism and International Relations in the Indian Subcontinent, Sara Silvestri (City University & Cambridge University), on 'The "radical" message of Muslim Politics and the Politics about Islam in Europe'. Yosef Lapid acted as Discussant.

15. The second and third panels were convened by Luca Mavelli, PhD Candidate and Ed Frettingham, PhD Candidate of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. The second panel, was on the subject, Secularism and the Politics of Religion I: Practices of Authority, chaired by Ayla Gol, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, with Luca Mavelli speaking on 'In Europe but not of Europe: Non Muslims and Muslims beyond the secular/religious divide', Ed Webb (Dickinson College), on 'Kemalism in more than one country? Religious Jacobinism in Turkey and Tunisia', Ahmet T kuru (San Diego State University), on 'Secularism and State-Religion Relations in the United States, France and Turkey, and Sandra Halperin (Royal Holloway, University of London), on 'Secularism and the Resurgence of Religion: some comparative historical reflections.' Nathan C. Funk, University of Waterloo was Discussant.

16. The third panel was on 'Secularism and the Politics of Religion II: The Problem of Religious Violence'. Luca Mavelli was in the Chair and Ed Frettingham spoke on 'Religion, Security and Liberalism: British Government Discourse on Islam, 1997-2007. Stacey Gutkowski, Cambridge University, spoke on 1970s Northern Ireland and the Secular Evolution of British Policy Towards Religious Violence. Christian Bundegaard (Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva) addressed the subject, 'Who's Afraid of Absolute Truth? Conflict Perception and Value Spheres in International Politics', and Nathan C. Funk

spoke on 'Politics in an Apologetic Mode: The Dangers of Resisting "Mea Culpa"'. The Dicussant was Ahmet T Kuru (San Diego University).

Publications

18. There was disappointment at the slow progress made on the planned publication from the Sandhurst Conference Papers . However, Rosemary Durward and Lee Marsden will be co-editing a book taking selected papers from the Sandhurst Conference and the panel on God And War from the 2008 Annual Conference, with Ashgate Publishing in the New Year. Sara Silvestri will be taking the lead on a second publication.

17. Working Group members Wyn Rees, Adrian Hyde-Price and Tim Blewett had their book, British Foreign Policy and the Anglican Church published by Ashgate Publishing

Treasury Report

18. A report on expenditure has been sent to the BISA Treasurer.

Outline of Activities for which Funding is Sought

19. 2 meetings of editorial board during the year: Rosemary Durward, Sara Silvestri, Lee Marsden to prepare detailed proposals for Ashcroft Publishing.

20. BISA Working Group/Cambridge Workshop Series This series will be organized under the auspices of the Cambridge Programme on Religion and Ethics in War and Peace Making in collaboration with the Working Group, where the Working Group now has its website including a .

One day conference : 'Discourse about Religion and the Secular in Security/IR', before April, making use of excess funds from 2008. We will be inviting specialists from a range of disciplines to Cambridge, including professionals/non-academics with relevant experience. The programme will be looking to publish , including in a special journal issue.

Speaker events targeted at Working Group members (and others with an interest). These will be held at Cambridge and London, reflecting the interest of the Von Hugel Institute Programme in war and peace-making , and to unite International Relations specialists with speakers from other disciplines and fields of work.

21. BISA Annual Conference 2009 We will field at least one panel at the BISA Annual Conference 2009, for which we would like to have funds to support PhD students

Rosemary Durward

22 December 2008

