

# BISA Postgraduate Network Conference 2026

30 April - 1 May 2026 | Northumbria University, Newcastle

Revised programme | 54 papers | 15 panels

Discussants remain to be confirmed.

## Thursday 30 April

9.00 - 9.30	Registration and coffee   Sutherland Building 101 (SUB 101) – Great Hall
9.30 - 10:00	Opening Remarks   Sutherland Building 101 (SUB 101) – Great Hall
10.00 - 11.30	Day 1 Workshop   Sutherland Building 101 (SUB 101) – Great Hall
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee Break   Sutherland Building 101 (SUB 101) – Great Hall

## 12.00 - 14.00 | Panels

### Panel 1. Artificial Intelligence, Technology & Digital Governance

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 306 | Discussant: TBC

- **Constructing Artificial Intelligence in Putin's Presidential Rhetoric, 2017-2025**  
Kseniia Yehorova | Loughborough University London
- **Artificial Intelligence in the Global South: The Impacts of Poverty and Cyber Gangs in Nigeria**  
Adaora Okafor | Teesside University
- **Promising Security, Delivering Dependency: The Material Constraints of EU Semiconductor Collective Securitisation**  
Konstantinos Manakos | Northumbria University
- **Balancing and Fracturing: The Dual Dynamics of Cyber Threats in NATO Alliance Politics**  
Daksh Sharma | University College Dublin

### Panel 2. US-China Competition & Hegemony

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 314 | Discussant: TBC

- **The Rise and Fall of a Contested Strategic Narrative: The Belt and Road Initiative and the US-China Relationship, 2013-2024**  
Nick Sundin | Newcastle University
- **U.S. Congress and Policy Towards China**  
Paweł Mazurek | John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
- **Pathways to Re-recognition: Diplomatic Re-recognition of Taiwan in Cross-Strait Competition (1960-2007)**  
Jim An-Chin Cheng | National Sun Yat-Sen University
- **Brinkmanship in the Public Eye**  
Afiq bin Oslan | Max Planck Institute

### Panel 3. Ukraine, Strategic Culture & Geopolitical Crisis

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 445 | Discussant: TBC

- **Foreign Volunteer Soldiers in a Transnational Field of Global Support in Ukraine 2022**  
Laura Wain | University of Cambridge
- **Crisis and Change in Strategic Culture: Germany, Poland, and Sweden across the Ukraine Crises**  
Yingjian Li | King's College London
- **Frame Shifts and Geopolitical Crises: Navigating Historic Diasporas and Legacies of Linguistic Education**  
Holly Rodgers | University of Warwick

#### Panel 4. Memory, Identity & Political Subjectivity

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 450 | Discussant: TBC

- **Democratising Historical Mythmaking**  
James Lopez | UCL
- **Franco Was Never Dead: Fantasies of Harmony and Affective Postmemories in Democratic Spain**  
Ellen Louise Hietsch | University of Manchester
- **The Genealogies of Exclusion of the Indian Citizenship Amendment Act 2019**  
Dilshaad Hossain | Durham University
- **Portraits of Pandemic Memory: Grief and Trauma in the Nossa Senhora Aparecida Cemetery's Mass Graves**  
Mariana Cabral Campos | King's College London / University of São Paulo

14.00 - 15.00

Lunch break | Sutherland Building 101 (SUB 101) – Great Hall

#### 15.00 - 17.00 | Panels

##### Panel 5. Feminist Research, Gender & Biopolitics

Room: Sandyford Building (SAN), Room 405 | Discussant: TBC

- **Abolitionist Ecologies of Return: Gendered Environmental Care, Border Abolition and the Palestinian Right of Return**  
Debaarjun Dasgupta | University of Birmingham
- **'Who Controls Life, Controls Death': State Abortion Discourse and Femicide Outcomes in Texas and California**  
Molly Cranch | Swansea University
- **The Security Closet: The Queer Work of Making Protection Straight in Militarisation**  
Edgar Paysant | Sciences Po Paris
- **Researching from Within: Affective Labour and Relational Solidarity in the Digital Practices of Chinese Female International Students**  
Zhuo Wang | University of Manchester

##### Panel 6. Political Economy, Trade & Development

Room: Sandyford Building (SAN), Room 417 | Discussant: TBC

- **UK Trade Policy: A Case Study of Nigeria and UK Consumers**  
Ayiman Bekowei | University of Sunderland
- **Examining Zakat as a Financial Mechanism for Sustainable Development: Transnational Islamic Charity Flows from the UK**  
Mohammad Nawaz | Northumbria University
- **Ideational Performativity: Mapping Imperialism from Economics to the Economy**  
Akash Malhotra | King's College London
- **Chip Wars and the Evolution of American Hegemony: A Comparative Study of the US-Japan and US-China Semiconductor Conflicts**  
Yizhou Miao | King's College London

##### Panel 7. Climate Change, Environment & Security

Room: Sandyford Building (SAN), Room 212 | Discussant: TBC

- **Climate Change, Environmental Issues, and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry**  
Ekene Ebisi | Teesside University
- **Exploring the Resistance of the Coastal Farmer Union (PPLP) in the Context of Sand Iron Mining in Kulon Progo, Indonesia**  
Eka Zuni Lusi Astuti | University of Limerick
- **Governing the Green Frontier: State Capitalism and Transnational Climate Finance in Singapore**  
Ruoxuan Li | King's College London

- **Rural Women Empowerment through Handicrafts Business: Experiences of Rural Women in Tangail, Bangladesh**

Nepa Tabatshum | Teesside University

## **Panel 8. Nationalism, Populism, Migration & Exclusion**

*Room: Sandyford Building (SAN), Room 221 | Discussant: TBC*

- **Beyond Domestic Pathology: The Affective Economy of Fear and the Discursive Articulation of Bolsonarism**  
Lucca Giannini Palermo Moreno Belfi | State University of Rio de Janeiro / University of Manchester
- **Which Insecurity Matters? Gender-Stratified Mechanisms of Economic Insecurities and Anti-Migrant Attitudes**  
MinJi Cha | King's College London
- **Freedom of Association of the State: An Individualist Account**  
Cheng-Chia Tung | King's College London
- **Narrating Against Borders: Storytelling and the Hostile Environment for Migrants in the English NHS**  
Moises Vieira | University of Manchester

## Friday 1 May

9.30 - 10:00	Registration and coffee   Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442
10.00 - 11.30	Day 2 workshop   Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442
11.30 - 12.00	Coffee break   Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442

### 12.00 - 14.00 | Panels

#### Panel 9. Conflict, Peacebuilding & Rebel Governance

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 306 | Discussant: TBC

- **Participatory Rebel Governance and Successful Rebel Political Participation**  
Hyunjung Park | University of York
- **Rebel Humanitarian Diplomacy: The Houthis' Negotiations over Humanitarian Access and Aid Delivery**  
Fortuna Finocchito | University of Naples L'Orientale
- **Resilience from Below: Local Responses to Violent Extremism in Northern Nigeria**  
Ibrahim Machina Mohammed | University of Warwick
- **Understanding Persistence in Failing Peripheral Wars: The US, Exceptionalism, and the 2009 'Surge' in Afghanistan**  
Paul Beel | The Open University

#### Panel 10. International Law, Sanctions & Humanitarian Norms

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 308 | Discussant: TBC

- **Dehumanisation and International Humanitarian Law in the Israel-Palestine Conflict**  
Holly Swift | De Montfort University
- **From Preference to Pragmatism: Ideology and Utility in Train-and-Equip Partnerships**  
Kyle Martin | Tallinn University
- **Covert Yankee Imperialism? The Case of Bolivia, August 1971**  
Christopher Bennett | University of St Andrews

#### Panel 11. IR Theory, Political Thought & Methodology

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 312 | Discussant: TBC

- **Decolonial Fieldwork Encounters: Insider-Outsider Dichotomies and Navigating Neoliberal University Temporalities**  
Luqman Muraina | University of York
- **Historical Hobbes: The Historical Origins of Monarchy and the Sovereign State in Hobbes's Political Thought**  
Hengyuan Liu | King's College London
- **Participatory Mapping of Identity, Networks and the State in Syria**  
Lojean Hersi | King's College London

14.00 - 15.00	Lunch break   Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442
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### 15.00 - 16.45 | Panels

#### Panel 12. Southeast Asia, Japan & Regional Politics

Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 306 | Discussant: TBC

- **Japan-GCC State Relations: Interdependence, Agency and Driving Forces**  
Kazuto Matsuda | University of Edinburgh
- **Willing or Not? Gendered Political Ideologies and Citizens' Attitudes Toward Defence in Japan**  
Riyuka Suzuki | University of Edinburgh

- **The Future of Inequality: Intergenerational Politics and the Evolution of Balancing Strategies in Southeast Asia**  
Tian Zhang | Sun Yat-sen University
- **Global Governance in Maritime Cybersecurity: Assessing China's Compliance in the South China Sea**  
Ngoc Mai Le | University of Bristol

### Panel 13. Health, Public Policy & Global Health

*Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 308 | Discussant: TBC*

- **'Doctors with Borders': Vaccine Diplomacy as a Foreign Policy Tool of Soft Power for Revisionist States**  
Iris Magne | King's College London
- **Policy as Prize? How Public Policy Towards the Pharmaceutical Sector in Brazil Affected Pharmaceutical Associations between 2002 and 2026**  
Cristiane Pereira | King's College London
- **Governing Food Safety in Malaysia's Homemade Food Sector: Challenges, Gaps, and Emerging Regulatory Needs**  
Siti Husmila Binti Hussin | University of Sunderland
- **The Dementia Care Information Landscape for Family Caregivers**  
Rahul Venkatesh | Northumbria University

### Panel 14. Participation, Culture & Civic Life

*Room: Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442 | Discussant: TBC*

- **Social Identity and Participatory Cultures: A Comparative Study of K-pop Fans in the UK**  
Laura Hubbard | University of Sunderland
- **The Psychological Impact of Dark Tourism: A Scoping Review**  
David Martin | University of Sunderland
- **Does Participatory Budgeting Build Civic Commitment Equally? Evidence from Newham, London**  
Talya Oztop | King's College London
- **Care as Security: Social Reproduction and the International Political Economy of Illicit Markets**  
Isobel Clare | York St John University

16.45 - 17.15

Closing Remarks | Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442