

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: How to turn your PhD thesis into a book , Prof. Helena Farrand Carrapico, <i>BISA Secretary</i> 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. Conflict, Statehood & 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
- **Participatory Mapping of Identity, Networks and the State in Syria**
Lojean Hersi | King's College London

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

9.00 - 9:30	Registration and coffee Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442
09.30 - 11.00	Day 2 workshop: Pedagogically Driven AI for New Lecturers (Interactive Workshop), Dr Tadhg Blommerde Northumberland Building (NBD), Room 442
11.00 - 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. Sovereignty, Intervention & 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
- **Historical Hobbes: The Historical Origins of Monarchy and the Sovereign State in Hobbes's Political Thought**
Hengyuan Liu | 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 11. 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**
Zhengxin Huang | University of Oxford

- **Global Governance in Maritime Cybersecurity: Assessing China's Compliance in the South China Sea**

Ngoc Mai Le | University of Bristol

Panel 12. 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 13. 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