



CITY UNIVERSITY
LONDON

Department of International Politics
in association with the Centre for International Policy Studies

Workshop on NGOs in World Politics: New Directions for Research

17-18 October 2013

REPORT



St John's Gate, among the birthplaces of the NGO movement in Britain, two minutes from the workshop venue

Synopsis

On 17 and 18 October 2013, the Department of International Politics, in association with the Centre for International Policy Studies, at City University London, hosted an international interdisciplinary workshop on 'NGOs in World Politics: New Directions for Research'. This workshop was the latest event in City University London's distinguished history of more than thirty years of research into NGOs' roles in global affairs. The pioneer of this research programme, Emeritus Professor Peter Willetts, provided the keynote address at the workshop.

The workshop aimed, through international and interdisciplinary dialogue, to push forward the boundaries of research into NGOs in world politics. The range of methodological approaches represented at the workshop was exceptionally diverse and included archival history, large-n regression analysis, and single case post-structuralist evaluation, to name just a few. A particular strength of the workshop was the sharing of insights from history and perspectives from political science.

The workshop brought together thirty-one participants, including twenty-three paper-givers from sixteen universities (Aalborg University, Aberystwyth University, Brunel University, Carleton University, City University London, EHESS, Harvard University, Leibniz University Hannover, Lillehammer University College, Stockholm University, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Université St Louis Brussels, the University of Bern, the University of Lausanne, the University of Portsmouth, and the University of York) in ten countries (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Engagement with the policy sector was an aspect of the workshop, which included participants from the Overseas Development Institute's Humanitarian Policy Group. Twenty-three participants took part in the first day's discussions, and twenty-seven participants took part in the second day's debates.

An open call for papers had been distributed through multiple international networks in May 2013 in order to maximise the diversity and quality of accepted proposals. The clusters that emerged from the common themes arising in the accepted proposals formed the basis for the panels at the workshop. All papers presented at the workshop were circulated in advance among the participants in order to facilitate effective discussion. It is anticipated that a number of the workshop papers will be included in the Department of International Politics' Working Papers on Transnational Politics series.

The workshop featured a presentation on the newly-established BISA Working Group on NGOs, by co-founder of the Working Group Dr Erla Thrandardottir, a Visiting Research Fellow at City University London. Two current students on the doctoral programme of the Department of International Politics presented at the workshop, as did two recent graduates of the doctoral programme.

The workshop was conceived and organized by Dr Thomas Davies, a Lecturer in the Department of International Politics, which provided funding to support the convening of the workshop. The funding supported four bursaries to facilitate participation of doctoral students, in addition to covering the cost of light refreshments.

TD. 22 October 2013.

Programme implemented on Thursday 17 October 2013

Venue: Room D427, Social Sciences Building

11.30-12.00 **Registration**

12.00-12.15 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**, Christopher McDowell, Peter Willetts, and Tom Davies

12.15-13.45 **Panel One: Historical Perspectives on NGOs & Humanitarianism**

Chair: Stefan Dyroff

Thomas Davies, City University London, 'Lifesaving Societies and the Development of Transnational Humanitarianism, 1767-1863'

Caroline Reeves, Harvard University, 'The American Red Cross Foreign Division, 1917-1924: NGOs, Humanitarianism and American Expansionism in the Interwar Period'

Hazuki Tate, EHSS, 'A Consideration on the Origin of International Humanitarian Activities of NGOs: The ICRC's Action for the Repatriation of POWs after World War I'

14.00-15.30 **Panel Two: NGOs from the Late Nineteenth to Early Twentieth Centuries**

Chair: Caroline Reeves

Øyvind Tønnesson, Lillehammer University College, 'Analyst and Transnational Organizer: Christian L. Lange and the Peace Tradition, 1899-1938'

Stefan Dyroff, University of Bern, 'The Early History of Human Rights Missions of INGOs: Fact-Finding and Bridge-Building Journeys of the WILPF in the Inter-War Period'

Christophe Farquet, Université de Lausanne, 'A Powerful Lobby for Tax Havens: The International Chamber of Commerce and the Debates on International Taxation during the Interwar Period'

15.45-16.15 **Introducing the BISA Working Group on NGOs**, Erla Thrandardottir

16.15-17.45 **Panel Three: Politics beyond the State**

Chair: Tom Davies

Clare Wenham, Aberystwyth University, 'Surveillance beyond the State: NGOs in Global Disease Control'

Jutta Joachim, Leibniz University Hannover, and Andrea Schneiker, University of Siegen, 'Subjects or Objects of Governance? Governmentality, NGOs and Private Military and Security Companies'

Holly Ryan, City University London, 'Representing Aid Recipients: A Changing Photographic Regime?'

Pat Finlow, City University London, 'Does Religion Enhance or Hinder the Effectiveness of INGOs in International Fora?'

The following papers had also been circulated prior to the workshop for discussion in the first and second panels respectively:

Norbert Götz, Södertörn University, '"Worthy of the Nation that Abolished the Slave-Trade": Rationales of British Humanitarian Relief to Germany, 1805-1815'

Christian Mueller, Universities of Münster and Ghent, 'International Law Reform and Institutional Transitions: The *Institut de Droit International* between IGO and INGO from an Actor-Centred Perspective, 1873-1925'

Programme implemented on Friday 18 October 2013

Venue: Room AG01, College Building

9.10-10.45 Panel Four: Legitimacy, Accountability and Standards

Chair: Jutta Joachim

Erla Thrandardottir, City University London, 'Who are the Audiences to NGOs' Legitimacy Claims?'

Angela Crack, University of Portsmouth, 'The Regulation and Certification of INGOs'

Paloma Raggo, Carleton University, 'Walking the Walk Without Talking the Talk: Standards Adoption and Accountability Views in Transnational NGOs'

Christophe Hauert, University of Lausanne, 'Consumers and International Standardization: Translating Private Authority?'

11.00-12.15 Keynote Address: Peter Willetts, 'New Directions in the Study of NGOs'.

Chair: Tom Davies

13.00-13.45 Panel Five: NGOs, Regime Change, and Democratization

Chair: Jonas Tallberg

Vera Riffler, University of York, 'Caught between a Rock and a Hard Place: Civil Society Organizations, the State and Violence during Political Consolidation'

Abdulkadir Osman Farah, Aalborg University, 'Transnational NGOs between Popular Uprising and Authoritarian Regime: The Case of Egypt'

14.10-15.40 Panel Six: NGOs and the State

Chair: Amandine Orsini

Kirsti Stuvøy, Lillehammer University College, 'Public Consultative Bodies and New State-Society Relations in Russia'

Leonie Fleischmann, City University London, 'The Complex Relationship between NGOs and the Government: The Case of the Israeli Peace Movement'

Alejandro Peña, Brunel University and City University London, 'Fuzzy Boundaries: Business Activism, Civil Society and Party Politics in Brazil'

16.00-17.40 Panel Seven: International Fora, Advocacy, and the Boomerang Pattern

Chair: Peter Willetts

Amandine Orsini, Université St. Louis, Brussels 'Non-State Actors' Participation to Regime Complexes: How Does it Work (Or Does Not Work?)'

Jonas Tallberg, Stockholm University, 'Transnational Influence in International Organizations: Information, Access, and Exchange'

Thomas Sommerer, Stockholm University, 'Explaining the Transnational Design of International Organizations'

María Martín de Almagro Iniesta, Université Libre de Bruxelles, '(Un-)Globalizing Civil Society: When the Boomerang Rebounds - The UNSCR1325 Transnational Advocacy Campaign and Gender Security Counter-Discourses in Post-Conflict Burundi and Liberia'

17.40-17.45 Concluding Remarks, Tom Davies

Alphabetical List of Participants and Observers

Biswas, Niloy, City University London
Crack, Angela, University of Portsmouth
Davey, Eleanor, Overseas Development Institute
Davies, Tom, City University London
Dyroff, Stefan, University of Bern
Farah, Osman, Aalborg University
Farquet, Christophe, University of Lausanne
Finlow, Pat, City University London
Fleischmann, Leonie, City University London
Gans, Aaron
Hauert, Christophe, University of Lausanne
Joachim, Jutta, Leibniz University Hannover
Khedouri, Sarah Glazer
Krebs, Hanna, Overseas Development Institute
Martín de Almagro Iniesta, María, Université Libre de Bruxelles
McDowell, Christopher, City University London
Orsini, Amandine, Université St. Louis, Brussels
Peña, Alejandro, Brunel University
Raggio, Paloma, Carleton University
Reeves, Caroline, Harvard University
Riffler, Vera, University of York
Ryan, Holly, City University London
Sommerer, Thomas, Stockholm University
Stuvøy, Kirsti, Lillehammer University College
Tallberg, Jonas, Stockholm University
Tate, Hazuki, EHESS
Thrandardottir, Erla, University of Manchester
Tønnesson, Øyvind, Lillehammer University College
Wenham, Clare, Aberystwyth University
Willetts, Peter, City University London
Wilson, Neil, City University London