



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Scholarly Circle in International Relations

Australian National University
2018

We have been experimenting in the College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University, with the practice of Scholarly Circles – a group of research scholars who come together to explore intersections of faith and their current scholarship.

Our Convenors:

- Dr. Luke Glanville, Fellow, Dept of International Relations, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
- Professor Terence Halliday, Honorary Professor, School of Regulation and Global Governance, ANU
- Dr. Cecilia Jacob, Fellow, Dept of International Relations, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

Our 2018 event: a one-day conference, March 2018, where we presented papers, benefited from responses by theologians from St. Mark's National Theological Centre, and discussed papers together.

Our field: International Relations, International Organizations, and Global Governance

Our papers:

“What’s Normal, Anyway? The Difficulty of Categorising Faith-Based Humanitarian Actors”

“A Christian Ethical Response to Global Conflict: Realism and Reconciliation”

“National Interests and the Care of Strangers”

“Acculturation of Migrants and Refugees in the Context of Fleeing Conflict: The Case of the Syriac Orthodox Diaspora in Australia”

“Public Theology and Global Lawmaking: Weak Actors in Processes of Creating Commercial Law for the World”

“Thinking Christianly about the Beyond Aid Agenda”

Our people: 4 politics and sociology faculty, 4 political science doctoral students, 3 theologians, and some observer doctoral students and faculty.

Our practice: we’ve previously had informal discussions, then wrote and reviewed extended abstracts in a 2017 mini-conference, and prepared 3-5000 word papers 2 weeks before the mini-conference.

Our themes (summarized with permission from a memo by Dr. Cecilia Jacob, Fellow, Dept of International Relations, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU)

<http://ir.bellschool.anu.edu.au/experts-publications/experts/cecilia-jacob>

- Deriving conceptions of international justice from a theological starting point, including themes such as restoring right relationships through equal participation in international decision-making forums and reconciliation
- Generosity of state and international actors as a principle for showing agape love, prosperity, and pleasure/happiness (eg. aid, refugees)
- Articulating a vision of what moral authority should look like in IR
- Factoring how international assistance, laws and policies designed at the state/international levels affect beneficiaries into the design process
- Leadership and the role of individual agency
- Acknowledging the significance and contribution of religious belief in the social/political contexts being studied
- Importance of applied faith – the practical dimensions of faith enacted through vocation
- Thinking about the state as a site for biblical revelation – identifying where and how biblical principles apply to the aggregate political community
- Importance of being identifiable to other Christian scholars in the field to build networks and relationships to expand the intellectual community working in this area, and mentoring new generations of scholars to think ‘Christianly’ about their scholarship

Our sponsor: the mini-conference was funded by the ANU Dept of International Relations.

Our audiences:

- Each other
- Our academic disciplines
- Interdisciplinary audiences of theologians and social scientists
- Government officials, e.g., in the Australian civil service
- Wider publics, e.g., through public events discussing our work

Authors: Luke Glanville, Cecilia Jacob and Terry Halliday

Date: March, 2018

Event organizer: Faculty, Australia National University

Event topic: Scholarly Circle in International Relations

Location: Canberra

Country: Australia

Participants: Faculty, doctoral students in political science, sociology and international relations

Language: English