



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Scholarly Circle in International Relations 2018

Australian National University

Several Christian professors and doctoral students in international relations (IR) and international organizations (IOs) have been meeting for the past 3 years to discuss how to think christianly about our research and writing projects.

STAGES

Our circle has progressed through several stages.

Step 1. Learning about Each Other's Work

Initially we began by spending an hour or two from time to time talking informally about our research topics or current and recent publications.

Step 2. Extended Abstracts

To reflect theologically on our work, we discussed Christian intersections and themes that each of us considered relevant to our work.

We felt compelled to be more systematic, to push our own thinking further and to engage more fully with each other.

In early 2016 we set a deadline, almost a year ahead, that by January 2017 we would each write 2-3 page extended abstract. We would focus on one a current research project, describe its current status, the problems it sought to confront, the debates in IR and IOs that it treated, and make some preliminary efforts to offer theological perspectives on thinking or acting or both in relation to our findings.

Step 3. Mini-conference

In February 2017 we met in Canberra for a half-day meeting, with the financial assistance of ANU's Dept of International Relations. We had read abstracts ahead of time. Each of us presented briefly, then we had a roundtable of commentary, feedback, suggestions, for the next steps.

This was a rich time of encouragement and reinforcement, infusion and exchanges of social science and theological perspectives, and a stimulus to press forward.

SEE AUTHORS AND TOPICS BELOW

Step 4. Conference(s)

Following the 2017 conference we decided to expand our abstracts into short papers (around 3-5000 words) to present at a closed conference in early 2018. We invited several theologians from St. Mark's National Theological Centre, an Anglican affiliated institution in Canberra, as commentators.

At our one-day conference, March 2018, several faculty and doctoral students presented papers, benefited from responses by theologians from St. Mark's National Theological Centre, and engaged in round table discussions.

Step 5. Publication and Dissemination

If all goes well, we hope to publish in a forum that includes open online access for IFES movements and others elsewhere. We hope in this way to widen the conversation to IR scholars and Christians worldwide, especially in IFES movements.

AUTHORS AND TOPICS

Thinking Christianly about the Beyond Aid Agenda: Amos and the Future of Foreign Aid

Benjamin Day, Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University

What is Successful Religious Acculturation? The Case of the Syrian Orthodox Church in its Diaspora in Australia

Allan Davies, Department of Sociology, Alphacrucis College, Sydney

National Interests and the Care of Strangers

Luke Glanville, Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University

Public Theology and Global Lawmaking: Weak Actors in the Creation of Commercial Law for the World

Terence Halliday, School of Regulation and Global Governance, Australian National University

What's Normal, Anyway? The Difficulty of Categorising Faith-Based Humanitarian Actors

Alana Moore, Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University

A Christian Ethical Response to Global Conflict: Realism and Reconciliation

Cecilia Jacob, Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University

Co-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

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