



Call for Abstracts

This Is Not Global Politics! ... Or Is It?

First Berlin Forum on Global Politics

Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP), Freie Universität Berlin

Berlin, April 18th – 19th 2013

The Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP) at Freie Universität Berlin is proud to host the First Berlin Forum on Global Politics on the 18th and 19th of April 2013, an interdisciplinary forum that aims to bring together those who research and/or work on issues related to various aspects of global politics.

The interwoven histories of our vast world are carved from conflicts over the wax and wane of resources, territories and peoples. Empires were constructed and destroyed by way of competitive, exploitative and callous strategies: nations conquered, nature plundered, cultures subjugated. Until the 20th century, the political was conceptualized almost solely in terms of security, anarchy and power, especially in relation to the interactions between nation-states. The illusions of

boundless expansion and perpetual abundance, yoked to repulsion for difference, infused these concepts and strategies. Nowadays, our crowded and small world confronts us with the evidence of irrefutably limited assets, deeply rooted communities and the borders of a horizon that curves upon itself. Undoubtedly, such profound realizations demand novel concepts, innovative strategies, and a new resolve that dreams the time ahead as more diverse, more sustainable, and more concerted. However, this is not global politics ... or is it?

The past century is characterized by myriad of novelties and changes to the way peoples, nations and institutions of the world connect, interact, and cooperate or conflict with each other. The progressive removal of barriers to trade, growth of foreign investment and intensification of labor circulation, as well as the development of novel communication and transportation technologies, has caused profound effects, localizing global issues and globalizing local ones. These processes have greatly expanded the number and kinds of social and political participants and have led national societies to become increasingly interconnected and interdependent with each other.

This globalization of social, political and economic relations has generated challenges that are mostly global in extent. Examples abide: financial and monetary crises; migratory flows; inequality and poverty; the role of ethics, solidarity and responsibility; environmental sustainability and scarcity of resources; climate change; and, shifts in power and in security related matters, among others. The seriousness of some of these problems challenges humanity to overcome the boundaries and divisions created until now by national states, religions and cultures. The fact that they cannot be resolved by unilateral actions or by any single group of actors has created a truly historical moment for humanity: one in which our will to respond from within our diversity as a whole, for the benefit of the whole, is put to the test.

Without a doubt, these global challenges call for corresponding global responses. However, a consensus about their meaning, form and scope has not yet been achieved. A first range of questions arises from the very definition of 'global'. What is the global and how does it differ or not from the international? Is the idea of the global and a global response culturally informed? The second range of questions relate to the effects of globalization on today's politics. What are the role of the state and the nature of sovereignty in a more globalized world? Is the state retreating, fracturing or becoming stronger? The third range of questions deal with the strategies and instruments that comprise the global response. How can global governance become more just and efficient? Who should have a say in the decision-making procedures of the international community, and how much of a say should emerging powers, developing countries, and non-state actors have vis-à-vis the consolidated developed countries' hold over international institutions and law?

In order to discuss and share opinions and strategies about these and other questions, we invite contributions from students and scholars of the academic community, representatives of (non-) governmental organizations and social and political activists concerned with matters of a global nature and their consequences.

Please send in your abstract, between 300 and 400 words, by 15th January 2013 to our e-mail address: globalpoliticsconference@cgp-phd.org

Confirmations of acceptance will be sent in due time.

If your proposed abstract is accepted, you will be asked to submit a complete paper. The paper must be under 6000 words and be delivered no later than 15th March 2013.

For further information, visit our webpage at www.cgp-phd.org or please contact us at globalpoliticsconference@cgp-phd.org