

**Master Class: The role approach in Foreign Policy Analysis**

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22 January 2015

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**Course Outline *The role approach in Foreign Policy Analysis -  
Theory, methodology and methods***

Role theory has experienced a revival in the field of foreign policy analysis. Recent works have developed the relational dimension of roles from a symbolic interactionist perspective, in which scholars seek to advance and substantiate the promise of this approach of establishing a nexus between foreign policy and international relations scholarship. Although role theory works have focused more on its theoretical development, there are still theoretical gaps that need to be discussed and need further elaboration. In fact, these gaps may give blue prints about the future research agenda of role theory. Not only is a new research agenda in the making regarding role theory, but also there is further need to discuss the methodological choices and methods used when conducting role theory analysis. Thus, this master class will touch upon these different aspects as part of the triad theory, methodology and methods. In the master class we will discuss the promise, pitfalls and future of role theory in FPA/IR within these three pillars: First, an overview of role theory conceptual apparatus and theoretical notions will be presented and discussed. Second, the methodological options and choices that a researcher needs to consider when conducting role theory analysis are also discussed. Third, the master class will also present and discuss the pro and cons of the different methods available through which role theory analysis can be conducted. This third section builds from the recurrent claim that 'role theory is conceptually rich but methodologically poor'. In all the different sections of the master class the lecturer will encourage students to connect theory, methodology and method to their ongoing research projects.

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