Regional Powers and Regional Order
GIGA – Oxford – Sciences Po Conference
Paris, 8-9 October 2009

DAY ONE

Introduction

9.00 hrs. Welcome Address
Robert Kappel (GIGA – Germany)
Alfredo Valladão (Sciences Po – Chaire Mercosur – France)

9.15 hrs. Introduction
Dirk Nabers (GIGA – Germany)

Session One

THE HISTORICAL CONSTRUCTION OF « REGIONS » AND « REGIONAL POWERS »
Chair: Alfredo Valladão, (Sciences Po – Chaire Mercosur – France)
Discussant: Dirk Nabers (GIGA - Germany)

The objective of the first panel is to re-assess some of the central concepts of the debate, which until now have been addressed in an essentialist way (cf. the idea of a “natural region”). We propose to examine, from a historical perspective, how the notions of « region » and of a « regional power » have impacted the development of international relation on a global scale.

9.30 hrs. From “empire” to “area” to “region”: the spatial expression of power
Karoline Postel-Vinay (Sciences Po – CERI - France)

The power of ideas and regional governance
David MacDonald (University of Guelph – Canada)

10.45 hrs. Coffee Break

11.15 hrs. The Omnipower: The United States and Regional Orders
Jeffrey Legro (University of Virginia – USA)
Regional powers and regional governance  
Detlef Nolte (GIGA - Germany)

12.45 hrs.  
*Lunch Break*

**Session Two**

**MAKING POLITICAL SENSE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD**  
Chair: Dirk Nabers, (GIGA – Germany)  
Discussant: Cord Jakobeit (University of Hamburg – Germany)

This panel will address a particular geopolitical dimension of a «regional power», i.e. the neighbourhood. How can we characterize this specific geopolitical figure (which is, indeed, both geographical and political)? More concretely, how can we describe and define the relations between regional powers and their neighbours, and to which extent approaches in terms of regional power/client State dialectic, the production of «regional public goods», or «network/region-building», are pertinent to this analysis?

14.15 hrs.  
**The EU and its neighborhood: a “variable geometry” approach?**  
Anne-Marie Le Gloannec (Sciences Po – CERI – France)

**China and the definition of the Asian region**  
Nadine Godehardt (GIGA - Germany)

15.45 hrs.  
*Coffee Break*

16.15 hrs.  
**Moguls, Raj, Federation, SAARC: India as a region?**  
Sujit Dutta (Jamia Millia University, India)

**Regional Leadership: Understanding power transformations in the Middle East**  
Louise Fawcett (University of Oxford – UK)

17.45 hrs.  
**End of session**

19.00 hrs.  
**Dinner** – Maison de l’Amérique Latine – 217, boulevard Saint-Germain – Paris 7

**Top**

**DAY TWO**

**Session Three**

**ESTABLISHING REGIONAL POWER STATUS**  
Chair: Janis van der Westhuizen (University of Stellenbosch – South Africa)  
Discussant: Hartmut Mayer (University of Oxford - UK)

The third panel addresses the region as a «stage» where a State asserts itself as a regional power. The definition of the region can indeed become the focus of a strategic rivalry when several – in most cases, two – States compete to pretend to such status. As an echo (counterpoint?) to Panel One’s «de-constructivist» disposition, the discussions here would consider the definition of a regional power from a contemporaneous and geopolitical point of
view. A reference will be made as well to the “European exception”, which actively defends the principle of equality between “small” and “big” States.

9.00 hrs.  **The EU: a region made of equals? A fiction or a model?**  Christian Lequesne (Sciences Po – CERI – France)

**Russia’s Power Strategy: The Burden of Territory**  
Marie Mendras (LSE & Sciences Po – UK and France)

10.30 hrs.  *Coffee Break*

11.00 hrs.  **Mexico and Brazil: Latin or South America?**  
Alfredo Valladão (Sciences Po - Chaire Mercosur - France)

**Morocco and Algeria: the UMA as a non-region**  
Nabil Jedlane (Cadi Ayyad University – Morocco)

12.30 hrs.  *Lunch Break*

**Session Four**

**REGIONAL OR “SUB-GLOBAL” POWERS?**  
Chair: Ewa Kulesza (Sciences Po – CERI – France)  
Discussant: Henner Fürtig (GIGA – Germany)

Can regional powers pretend to be more than « local » (regional) managers of a global order? Do global economic interdependence, global financial crises, global challenges, etc. undermine the very possibility of a non-rhetorical “region-regional power” nexus?

14.00 hrs.  **Israel: extra-regional foundations of a regional power**  
Mark A. Heller (Tel Aviv University – Israel)

**Pakistan: regional power, global problem**  
Rajesh Rajagopalan (Jawaharlal Nehru University – India)

15.30 hrs.  *Coffee Break*

16.00 hrs.  **France as a regional power in Africa**  
Andreas Mehler (GIGA – Germany)

**‘A Fine and Delicate Balance…’ South Africa’s Middle Power Complexities, 1994-2009**  
Janis van der Westhuizen (University of Stellenbosch – South Africa)

17.30 hrs.  *Coffee break*

**Concluding remarks**

18.00 hrs.  Concluding remarks and forecast Stellenbosch conference 2010
Dirk Nabers (GIGA – Germany)
Janis van der Westhuizen (University of Stellenbosch – South Africa)
Alfredo Valladão (Sciences Po – Chaire Mercosur – France)

19.00 hrs. Social Gathering