

Authors' Workshop

Advancing Comparative Area Studies

29–30 April 2022

Venue

Besenbinderhof | Besenbinderhof 57A | Hamburg | Tarpenbek room | www.besenbinderhof.com

Format

There will be no paper presentations by the authors. Instead, each paper will be briefly summarized by a **lead discussant** who will also provide comments, especially on ways to better highlight its main strengths and contributions, also pointing to connectivity to themes in the book and suggesting ways the paper can tie to other chapters (10 minutes in total). A **second discussant** will also provide feedback, focusing on the cogency of the arguments presented and trying to “poke holes” in the argument – essentially trying to anticipate possible reviewers’ criticisms of the paper in question (5 minutes). The authors will then have up to 10 minutes for responses before we open up for Q&A (30 minutes). Participants will either serve once as lead discussant or twice as second discussant.

Workshop programme

Thursday, 28 April 2022

7:00 p.m. | Welcome dinner at La Pergola Due Restaurant | Colonnaden 72

Friday, 29 April 2022

10:00–10:15 a.m. | **Introduction to the Workshop**

Ariel I. Ahram, Patrick Köllner, and Rudra Sil

10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | **Session 1: Comparative Area Studies in Conversation with Other Approaches I**

- Comparative Area Studies and Interpretivism: Towards an Interpretive-Comparative Research Agenda (Anna Fünfgeld)
 - Lead Discussant: Nicholas Rush Smith
 - Second discussant: André Bank
- Communicating Across Contexts: How to Build Social Scientific Knowledge through Comparative Area Studies (Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith)
 - Lead discussant: Ariel I. Ahram
 - Second discussant: Anna Fünfgeld

12:15–1:45 p.m. | Lunch

1:45–2:45 p.m. | **Session 2: Comparative Area Studies in Conversation with Other Approaches II**

- Crossing the Boundaries of Comparison: Comparative Area Studies and Comparative Historical Analysis (Amel Ahmed)
 - Lead discussant: Roselyn Hsueh
 - Second discussant: Jesse Dillon Savage

2:45–3:00 p.m. | Coffee break

3:00–5:00 p.m. | **Session 3: Regions as Sites of Comparison**

- Comparison as Ontology, Region as Concept: On the Synergies of Comparative Area Studies (Erik Martinez Kuhonta)
 - Lead discussant: Nora Fisher Onar
 - Second discussant: Erica S. Simmons
- Critical Junctures in (Eurasian) Encounters with Western Hegemony: A Tool for Comparative Area Studies (Nora Fisher Onar)
 - Lead discussant: Rudra Sil
 - Second discussant: Amel Ahmed

7:00 p.m. | Dinner at Kleinhuis Restaurant | Fehlandtstraße 26

Saturday, 30 April 2022

9:15–11:15 a.m. | **Session 4: Analytical Issues I**

- Causal Explanation with Ideal Types: Opportunities for Comparative Area Studies (Ryan Saylor)
 - Lead discussant: Matthias Basedau
 - Second discussant: Amel Ahmed
- Bringing Sectors Back In: Comparative Area Studies at the Sectoral Level of Analysis (Roselyn Hsueh)
 - Lead discussant: Marissa Brookes
 - Second discussant: Erica S. Simmons (comments delivered by Nicholas Rush Smith)

11:15–11:30 a.m. | Coffee break

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. | **Session 5: Analytical Issues II**

- The Best of Both Worlds? The Case for Multi-Methods Research in Comparative Area Studies (Matthias Basedau and David Kuehn)
 - Lead discussant: Ryan Saylor
 - Second discussant: Jesse Dillon Savage
- Advancing Theory Development in Comparative Area Studies: Practical Recommendations for Evaluating the Equifinality of Causal Mechanisms (Marissa Brookes and Jesse Dillon Savage)
 - Lead discussant: David Kuehn
 - Second discussants: Sara Wallace Goodman and Tom Pepinsky

1:30–2:30 p.m. | Lunch

2:30–4:30 p.m. | **Session 6: Organisational Issues**

- Comparative Area Studies, Area Centers and Institutional Projects (Ariel I. Ahram)
 - Lead discussant: Patrick Köllner
 - Second discussants: Sara Wallace Goodman and Tom Pepinsky
- Comparative Area Studies: Programs, Department, Constraints, Opportunities (Sara Wallace Goodman and Tom Pepinsky)
 - Lead discussant: Erik Martinez Kuhonta
 - Second discussants: Ariel I. Ahram, Patrick Köllner, and Rudra Sil

List of the participants (in alphabetical order)

1. Prof. Amel Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst, <https://polsci.umass.edu/people/amel-ahmed>
2. Dr. André Bank, Senior Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies, <https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/the-giga/team/bank-andre>
3. Anna Fünfgeld, Research Fellow, Universities of Freiburg and Potsdam, Doctoral Researcher, GIGA, <https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/the-giga/team/fuenfgeld-anna>
4. Prof. Ariel I. Ahram, Associate Professor and chair of the government and international affairs program, Virginia Tech, Arlington, <https://www.arielahram.com/>
5. Dr. David Kuehn, Senior Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Asian Studies, <https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/team/kuehn>
6. Prof. Erica S. Simmons, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, <https://polisci.wisc.edu/staff/erica-simmons/>
7. Prof. Erik Martinez Kuhonta, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, McGill University, Montreal, <https://www.mcgill.ca/politicalscience/erik-martinez-kuhonta>
8. Prof. Jesse Dillon Savage, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, https://www.tcd.ie/Political_Science/people/dillonsj
9. Prof. Marissa Brookes, Associate Professor, Department of Politics, University of California, Riverside, <https://politicalscience.ucr.edu/people/faculty/brookes/>
10. Prof. Matthias Basedau, Director, GIGA Institute for African Affairs and Adjunct Professor (political science), Universität Hamburg, <https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/team/basedau>
11. Prof. Nicholas Rush Smith, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, City University of New York, <https://nicholasrushsmith.com/>
12. Prof. Nora Fisher Onar, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, University of San Francisco, <https://www.usfca.edu/faculty/nora-fisher-onar>

13. Prof. Patrick Köllner, Vice President, GIGA, Director, GIGA Institute for Asian Studies, and Professor (political science with a focus on Asian studies), Universität Hamburg, <https://www.giga-hamburg.de/de/team/11564795-köllner-patrick/>
14. Prof. Roselyn Hsueh, Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts, Temple University, Philadelphia, <https://liberalarts.temple.edu/academics/faculty/hsueh-roslyn>
15. Prof. Rudra Sil, Professor, Political Science Department, University of Pennsylvania, <https://www.polisci.upenn.edu/people/standing-faculty/rudra-sil>
16. Prof. Ryan Saylor, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Tulsa, <https://faculty.utulsa.edu/faculty/ryan-saylor/>
17. Prof. Sara Wallace Goodman, Associate Professor, UC Irvine, https://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty_id=5644
18. Prof. Thomas Pepinsky, Professor, Government department and faculty member, Southeast Asia program, Cornell University, Ithaca/New York, <https://government.cornell.edu/thomas-pepinsky>