

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture presents a Public Seminar on

Global Politics: A Critical Engagement

David Chandler

Julian Reid

Gideon Baker

17:00

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**Sophia University
Bldg.10, Room 301**

Over the last decade or so politics appears to have shifted from the national or international level to the global. This panel critically engages with the discursive nature of this shift and the presentations of what it means to live and politically engage in a 'global' world. The speakers will raise fundamental questions about the political frameworks which are held to operate, to be immanent or to be excluded through this global framing, including reconsiderations of the nature of territorial and post-territorial politics, cosmopolitan alternatives and the framings of biopolitics at the global level. This promises to be a lively and theoretically-driven discussion between leading thinkers in this area, each with their own distinctive perspective on the implications of the 'global'.

Lecture in English

No prior registration necessary

You can also check the information on ICC webpage. <http://www.fl.sophia.ac.jp/icc/index2.htm>

Speakers, titles and abstracts:

“What is Global Politics?” David Chandler

Even before the credit crunch it was a commonplace to describe the world we live in as 'global' or to preface discussions with an acceptance that the world was rapidly 'globalising'. This presentation seeks to question what it means politically to understand the world in global terms. Why is it that the world has become global? When did global consciousness develop and what does it express about ourselves and our social and political relationships? Why do we think of ourselves as global citizens, with global responsibilities? Can politics exist in a global world? Is global politics just nation-based politics writ large or does it express a very different normative content? Professor David Chandler touches on some themes from his forthcoming book *Hollow Hegemony: Rethinking Global Politics, Power and Resistance*.

David Chandler is Professor of International Relations at the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster, London. He is the editor of the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* and author of a number of books including *Empire in Denial: The Politics of Statebuilding* and *Hollow Hegemony: Rethinking Global Politics, Power and Resistance*.

“Globality and Hospitality,” Gideon Baker

Today, many commentators on global politics use the concept of global civil society to invoke transnational interconnectedness. From the perspective of this global imaginary, the figure of the foreigner or stranger drops out of view and is replaced with familiarity in world politics. The concept of hospitality in international political thought used to be a way of thinking, rather, about encounters between strangers in world politics, as for instance in Immanuel Kant's cosmopolitan right of hospitality outlined in *Perpetual Peace*. What, however, can hospitality mean in world politics today? On the one hand, as a global imaginary in which there are hosts, homes and strangers, is hospitality an abandonment of the universal community of mankind posited by cosmopolitans? On the other hand, as a global imaginary in which there is a welcome of the stranger, does hospitality suggest an alternative cosmopolitanism? These are some of the questions Gideon Baker will pursue in his reflections on hospitality in the age of the global.

Gideon Baker is Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Griffith University, Australia. He has published books and journal articles on the idea of global civil society and, more recently, a book on the future of political community. He is currently working on hospitality in international political thought, on which he has a book and articles in *Alternatives and International Relations* forthcoming.

“Life, Globality, Politics,” Julian Reid

Reid's talk will involve some critical reflections on the relations between global politics and biopolitics. He will summarise his thesis, developed in his books *Biopolitics of the War on Terror*, and *The Liberal Way of War*, that life, not globality, is the grand transcendental that determines political debate and struggle in the 'global' era. Lamenting the rise of liberal internationalism which currently frames the terms and conditions of debates on the politics of life in International Relations, Reid examines the possibilities for thinking politics beyond life. What forms does politics take, he asks, when life is no longer understood as a horizon to strive for, but an imposition against which political beings must struggle in order to fulfill their destiny? What forms does politics assume when the struggle against life become the determining condition of its possibility? Answers to such questions are pressing, Reid argues, if we earnestly desire an escape from the current impasses of global biopolitics.

Julian Reid is Lecturer in International Relations at King's College London UK, and Visiting Professor of International Relations at the University of Lapland, Finland. He is the author of *The Liberal Way of War* (with Michael Dillon) (2009) and *The Biopolitics of the War on Terror* (2006). His current interests include the biopolitics of sustainable development and the political thought of Gilles Deleuze.

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