

Rethinking Emancipation

Friday, 17 June 2022 16:45 (1h 30m)

Emancipation is a central component critical thinking and, the *raison d'être* of a 'critical IR'. However, 'Critical IR', both historically and in the present day, has both an aversion to and a deeply problematic understanding of emancipation. It either draws on Euro-centric understandings of emancipation and its inherent universalised norms or refuses normative thinking altogether. This panel is based on the premise that in order to conduct a critical analysis of international politics, we need to rethink the relation between normativity and emancipation. This is a theoretical task with enormous practical consequences given the present constellation of crises – economic, political and ecological-which which we are confronted.

Specifically, the panel will engage with the following themes:

- The conceptualisation of emancipation in IR and political theory
- The relation between normativity and emancipation in IR/political theory
- Genealogical accounts of the role of emancipation and/or the relation between emancipation and normativity in IR
- Ontological and/or epistemological problems of emancipation.
- Emancipation in concrete (empirical) fields of study such as peace studies, climate change politics and gender studies
- Decolonial and non-Eurocentric accounts of emancipation
- The panel will conclude by posing the question between emancipation and ontology in IR

Membership

Track Classification: International Relations as a Social Science Working Group