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Culture wars and international relations: Contesting moral authority in global order

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There has been a global resurgence in "culture war" discourses, in which conflicts over values are increasingly explained through the frameworks of the alt-right, the "war on woke", and the denunciation of intellectual traditions such as critical race theory, decolonial scholarship, and postmodernism. Furthermore, these contests are frequently taking place internationally, transnationally, and globally, albeit unevenly and in hybrid forms, inviting us to consider how these contests for moral authority are scaling up towards global order. This panel proposes a research agenda on the international dimensions of "culture wars". In a series of initial explorations, the contributions examine questions such as the global politics of memetic faces; the "culture war" framing of international migration; and the representations of "the West" and "Western civilization" in Anglophone and Chinese reactionary discourses.

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