

Popular Culture and World Politics – new sites of activity in a changing world

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As world politics morphs and evolves it is becoming ever more important to explore diverse sites in which world politics unfolds. Popular culture, which ebbs and flows across time and space is a crucial repository of world politics which is multiplying and intensifying in everyday life in ever more impactful forms. This panel explores these developments by looking at a number of sites in which world politics manifests itself in everyday life. Two of the papers explore technologically driven change within memes and social media which present users with challenging content such as extremism and militarism, frequently through visual forms or driven by the affordances within the technology. Our other papers consider more analogue sites such as museums and art, albeit ones which citizens will similarly encounter in unexpected ways. Cumulatively we show that world politics is becoming ever more important in shaping what we come to know of as world politics, and through that presents challenges to the discipline as a whole in relation to how we come to know what we know.

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