British International Studies Association

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Spaces of refuge in the corridors of Higher Education

Friday, 20 June 2025 13:15 (1h 30m)

How do spaces of refuge come into being? This roundtable attends to the challenges and possibilities facing those who travel through the corridors of Higher Education. Our conversation is necessarily global and acknowledges the intersections and divergences of colleagues throughout the world as they seek to balance the challenges of research, teaching, and administration. We pay particular attention to the invisible labor that all too often contributes to periods of fatigue, uncertainty, and burn out.

To develop this conversation more robustly this roundtable wonders at spaces of welcome and unwelcome within the discipline of International Relations. It invites colleagues to reflect on the journeys towards welcome, and the interruptions and easings that this journey has prompted. We invite colleagues to bring tacit embodied knowledge alongside more objective forms of being and knowing. The invitation is cast widely in the hopes of better understanding diverse forms of unwelcome, and the move to collective forms of welcome and how those spaces might be supported into the future. The roundtable draws from ongoing discussions in Feminist International Relations, Pedagogical discourses, Political Theory and Disability Studies provoking discussions of care, failure, and support that push back against the very structures that inspire this conversation.

Track Classification: Emotions in Politics and International Relations Working Group