

Representation, Legitimacy, and The Future of the International System

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It is clear from ongoing global challenges, including climate change, continuing conflicts, and the numerous other threats to a sustainable and more peaceful future, that the international institutions and structures we have are not suitable for purpose. The anxiety we are seeing within the international system can be directly connected to structural inequalities, and a historical lack of justice. The limited nature of representation, and the inherent inequalities this causes, has led to growing calls for reform. The question is how do we reform current institutions? Or do we need to start anew? What comes first, do we have to change the way we think about the world in order to change the structures within it, or alternatively do we have to change the structures in order to change the way we think about the world? This roundtable brings together a collection of scholars to start a conversation about how we can challenge the current international and global structures, and whether we need to change the current institutions or replace them with something new. Can we imagine an alternative future or futures where the chances of peace are increased?

Roundtable Questions

1. How do current approaches to understanding international institutions and structures limit the possibilities for change or reform?
2. What changes would you make to current institutions and why?
3. Do we need to think about replacing current institutions?
4. What possibilities are there for the creation of new international institutions?
5. What are the risks and rewards of reimagining international institutions?
6. Where should we start in our reimagining of international institutions?

Track Classification: International Law and Politics Working Group