

## The Future of the 'English School' Approach to International Studies: Continuity, Adaptation, and Transformation in a Global World.

*Friday, 20 June 2025 10:45 (1h 30m)*

As BISA marks its 50th anniversary, it is opportune to reflect on the past half-century of International Studies and its key theoretical approaches. Closely tied to BISA's development, for over sixty years the 'English School' (ES) approach has significantly contributed to our grasp of the normative foundations underpinning International Society. However, as International Studies grows increasingly pluralistic, global and interdisciplinary, reassessing the relevance of this approach is crucial. Faced with evolving challenges outside of its initial horizons - from environmental crises to transnational cyber politics - questions about the applicability of the ES framework are more urgent than ever. What can this approach offer today?

This roundtable examines the future of the ES approach, examining whether its foundational assumptions sufficiently meet contemporary needs. Established scholars and early-career researchers of varied backgrounds, genders and ethnicities will critically evaluate its limitations and identify developmental pathways. They will seek to rearticulate the conceptual framework of international and world society so to better address global normative challenges, incorporating neglected perspectives. Through dynamic, multi-faceted dialogue, this roundtable will equip International Studies with a refined conceptual toolkit that can firmly articulate the pressing challenges facing global international society, overcoming past theoretical limitations and strengthening our field for the future.

**Track Classification:** Contemporary Research on International Political Theory Working Group