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Mundane Affects: making sense of banal, ordinary and non-spectacular lifeworlds

Thursday, 19 June 2025 15:00 (1h 30m)

Working from flattened temporalities such as Berlant's 'crisis ordinary' and Nixon's 'slow violence', this panel explores the affective circulations that never quite intensify into a legible event, formation or spectacle. We are interested in the undiagnosed, under-the-radar, mundane practices that constitute the global order but do not reproduce Liberal norms of progress or recognized forms of dissent. From banal government bureaucracy to boring drone spectacles, from tasteless military rations to the empty hours of migrant life, this panel explores the habitual and routine affects that circulate underneath the lures of dominant global norms such as Justice, Inclusion, Citizenship and Humanitarianism. We are interested in the affective contours of the not-quite, the almost, the mediocre – the mundane life worlds that go unrecognized by IR's dominant epistemological frames.

Track Classification: Post-Structural Politics Working Group