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Worldmaking: advances in a new agenda

Wednesday 3 June 2026 13:15 (1h 30m)

Worldmaking is a new development within the context of the International Relations (IR) discipline. It holds the potential promise for analysis of globe-spanning phenomena like the advent of nuclear weapons, the transgression of planetary ecological boundaries, and historical and contemporary processes of colonisation. The aim of this panel is to highlight recent advances in worldmaking theory, bringing together scholars who make theoretical, empirical, or normative interventions into the worldmaking discussion, taking a broad view of the theoretical and empirical approaches that can add to a worldmaking agenda. It deploys an array of approaches including temporality, theory-building, post-colonial history, and analysis of worldmaking's potential as praxis, and seeks to identify a range of possible objects amenable to a worldmaking analysis, locate these objects in space, and describe some nascent methodologies for conducting worldmaking enquiries. Our intention is to develop a mutually-intelligible approach to worldmaking for scholars working on questions relevant to the study of the international regardless of disciplinary background. By doing so, we will advance IR's capacity to reimagine critical alternatives at the global level and to play a role in shaping counter-hegemonic and ameliorative projects.

Track Classification: Critical Alternatives for World Politics