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Type: Panel

Narratives of Greatness in International Politics

Friday 5 June 2026 15:00 (1h 30m)

This panel brings together papers that, in different ways, deal with the question of “greatness” in international politics. Some former great powers cling to the narratives of their past glory, some resent their loss of status, and some project their internalize greatness into the future, angling to be “custodians of humanity.” Papers on this panel rely on diverse empirical material - cultural heritage debates, domestic political attitudes, controversies over colonial-looted art, and public opinion surveys - to make claims about how narratives of past greatness influence contemporary world politics.

Track Classification: Emotions in Politics and International Relations Working Group