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Co-producing Knowledge in International Studies: Challenges, possibilities and futures

Thursday 4 June 2026 09:00 (1h 30m)

Contemporary scholarship in International Studies is increasingly engaging with collaborative, co-produced, and participatory approaches to knowledge production, which seek to create knowledge with those directly affected. Despite this, they remain marginal in formal methodological discourse, and many scholars do not self-identify with the label “participatory”. This roundtable convenes voices from across disciplines, fields, epistemic traditions, and geographic contexts to bring these diverse and long-standing practices into conversation. Our aim is to reflect on the promises and limitations of collaborative inquiry in international studies, identify areas of shared terrain, and ask what comes next for co-production in the field. Together, we ask: What are the specific benefits and obstacles to co-production in international studies research? How do different disciplines and fields navigate the constraints and opportunities of collaborative inquiry, and what best practices might be shared? Are our institutional systems and cultures set up to support co-production, and if not, what changes might be needed?

Track Classification: Colonial, Postcolonial and Decolonial Working Group