

Existentialism and International Relations I

Wednesday, 23 June 2021 11:00 (1h 30m)

What place, if any, there is for existential thinking in IR? To what degree has it been, or should it be, taken up? Indeed, apart from a set of essays in the *Journal of International Political Theory* in 2013, or an essay in *Ethics* in 1960, there has been no systematic study of the role or place of existentialist thought in IR theorising. This absence is perplexing given existentialism is centrally implicated in so many of the debates that we have today on subjects such as war and world-making, empire and economics, health and humanity. This is before we even turn to consider the import of literature like Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* or Simone De Beauvoir's *Old Age*, the representation of authoritarian leaders as Albert Camus' *Caligula* or the enduring issue of racism in Richard Wright's *Outsider*.

Bringing together interdisciplinary scholars working on pandemics and the politics of time, war and world-making, feminism and micropolitics, this roundtable asks: What are the merits and limits of an existential approach to international relations in the present political moment? (While our roundtable assesses the relevance of existentialism, our panel develops fresh existentialist arguments about IR).

Track Classification: Contemporary Research on International Political Theory Working Group