CALL FOR PAPERS

Security, Intervention and Humanitarianism:
The political and moral challenges of the 21st Century

17-18 November 2016, Barcelona
Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

The new century has opened with an ever-expanding security agenda to which seemingly unprecedented measures and ways of intervention both nationally and internationally have been addressed. Tackling security concerns has become simultaneously a strategic, political and moral issue as these concerns extend to inequality, lack of democracy and underdevelopment, in addition to terrorism, armed conflict and states' rivalry. Yet these measures need to be critically assessed since security concerns are growing and not dissipating. Currently, the gap between rich and poor is larger than ever, the number of refugees is one of the highest in history, environmental degradation threatens the livelihoods of many around the world, and conflict and terrorism are on the rise. Responses to these problems have been contradictory, but have revolved around different ways of understanding security, intervention and humanitarianism. Governments and international organisations have committed to, on the one hand, ethical policies through the promotion of good governance, democracy, and development, while, on the other, increasingly relying on military operations, border closing, contention, the reduction of development aid and piecemeal solutions for fossil-fuel dependency.

Given the fact that security now encompasses many areas of states, social and human life, assessing these policies should entail not only measuring effectiveness, but also inquiring about the political and moral implications of such interventions.

Keynote and Roundtable

Keynote speaker:
Professor Jennifer Welsh, IR Professor and Chair, European University Institute; UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect.

Roundtable:
• Mark Hoffman, Lecturer, London School of Economics and Political Science
• Luis Peral, Senior Analyst, Club de Madrid
• Miriam Bradley, Assistant Professor, IBEI

Topics for the Symposium

To this effect, the symposium explores the relationship between security, intervention and humanitarianism. Four themes would be particularly prominent. Firstly, the way a myriad of issues have come to be designated as a security issue; secondly, how intervention, under different forms, has been a predominant way of addressing these issues; thirdly, the role that moral arguments, and humanitarianism in particular, have played in shaping those interventions; and finally, the political and moral consequences of the way security, intervention and humanitarianism are understood and enacted from different actors (states, international organisations, non-state actors and even individuals). The symposium would also like to go beyond the philosophical/practitioner divide and join efforts in reflecting about what it means and what it should mean to pursue security.

The symposium thus welcomes contributions that are made from a theoretical as well as from an empirical perspective across disciplines.
Participants are encouraged to reflect on the following questions: Is 'security' another name for the political, social and economic problems the world currently faces? What type of interventions do these require? What should humanitarianism mean in addressing these challenges? Is there a North/South divide in addressing these problems? What about a government/ citizens divide? Has the world become more insecure as a result of the interventions undertaken to address security issues?

If you would like to participate please send a 200-word abstract with your name and a two-line bio to:
    Marta Iñiguez de Heredia. miniguez@ibei.org

Deadline April 15, 2016

All proposals will undergo peer review and notifications of acceptance will be sent out by 16 May.
Full papers will be expected by 15 October 2016 for circulation among participants.