

E-4 Reflections on International Relations Theory: Language, Non-state Actors, and Globalization

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Words of War: The Iraqi Tower of Babel

ABSTRACT:

This paper surveys the linguistic aspects of the Anglo-American attack on Iraq's multilingual society, focusing first on the character of the Arabic and Kurdish languages. Discussion then moves to an examination of the inherent difficulties in working across an English-Arabic divide, and concludes by discussing the puzzling failure of the American Government to grapple effectively with the linguistic challenges of political and military operations in the Middle East despite repeated warnings.

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Tragic Idealism and Power Institutionalism: Theorizing Real NGOs

ABSTRACT:

Many academic studies of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in world politics reiterate NGO self-understandings in abstract form, often suggesting either a) that NGOs speak for the voiceless and represent the unrepresented from below states (pluralism), or b) that NGOs implement or enforce global norms from above states (globalism). However, a growing body of scholars dissents from these conventional wisdoms, often drawing upon extensive field research on real NGOs. New NGO research emphasizes inadvertent consequences, conflict dynamics, particularity of partners and networks, latent agendas, and structural paths of influence. This paper seeks to locate the new NGO research within the horizon of IR Theory, from classical realism to constructivism.

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Saving the Amazon Depends on You: Yasuni National Park and the Global Politics of the Pipeline

ABSTRACT:

While scholars of international relations have traditionally focused on the state and its power politics in the international system, the papers on this panel broaden the perspective of international relations by bringing in other disciplines and actors to the analysis. Linguistic studies often do not consider the political policy ramifications of diverse languages in conflict areas, such as the Middle East. While scholars of global environmental policies have examined recent environmental regimes surrounding the Kyoto Protocol and global warming, few have addressed the policy and security concerns of nuclear energy and its radioactive waste. Finally, non-state actors have been analyzed traditionally through transnational network analysis, yet the authors on this panel have found that non-state actors and their study must be broadened to consider their inner organizational dynamics and the power politics among NGOs in order to view them as agents of power and influence in the international system. This panel includes members who are or have been actively engaged in their subject of study and have conducted original field research

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Organizational Culture as a Framework of Analysis of the Relationships between National and International NGO's

ABSTRACT:

Ecuador is a country which exhibits a tremendous biological, cultural and political diversity. There are hundreds of national Conservation NGO's exhibiting distinct work orientations as they work towards conservation and related development solutions. One of these is the Jatun Sacha Foundation which will be

used as a case study to exhibit the challenges and complexities of working with International Conservation NGO's in Ecuador. Jatun Sacha is one of Ecuador's largest conservation organizations and works with many of the International NGO's which have entered Ecuador during the 1990's. Management profiles of some of Jatun Sacha's national and international partners will be presented. Jatun Sacha itself focuses on private reserve conservation, forestry work, environmental education, policy formation, research and community production projects related to conservation. During the 1990's many International Conservation NGO's established working offices in Quito, the capitol city of Ecuador. During the 1990's which is now viewed as a "golden" funding period, their introductory messages were that they were interested in linking with national ngo's and that they would support national ngo's with funding. Since 2001 as conservation funds from US sources has appeared to grow increasingly scarce, some of these groups are now competing head to head with national ngo's for funds for projects in Ecuador. The Bingo's or International Conservation Organizations at times exhibit management style extremes in the way they relate to national ngo's. Some rely heavily on planning with very little application in the field. Others jump in feet first, without planning and inductively learn how to manage projects during their development. Others adopt an informal, entrepreneurial style, as they work with a limited number of partners. In some cases the international groups work with many local or national partners. The use of power, political contacts, and economic resources to achieve organizational objectives will also be discussed.

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Fire in the Hole: The International Implications of Highly Radioactive Waste Disposal

ABSTRACT:

There is a renewed interest in nuclear generated power since it does not contribute to global warming, does not emit air pollutants, and provides a cost-effective and stable supply of energy not subject to international disruptions. While it is true that nuclear generated power can be efficient and does not produce greenhouse gasses or air pollution, it does produce highly radioactive waste. And, coping effectively with the growing stockpiles of highly radioactive waste around the world is an international concern of growing importance. As of now, no country has yet solved the problem of what to do with the mounting inventories of spent nuclear fuel created as a by-product of nuclear electrical power generation. Even after it became evident that the disposal problem of highly radioactive waste demanded more immediate action, effective policies to develop a long-term solution to the problem have been rather slow to materialize due to the attendant political problems of selecting and building a repository. Yet, there are real safety and security concerns associated with the mounting inventories of spent nuclear fuel. This paper briefly discusses the search for a permanent disposal solution, summarizes international agreements governing the disposal of nuclear waste, presents a brief overview of countries with active long-term highly radioactive waste management programs, and offers some thoughts on how to cope more effectively with the safety and security realities of the ever growing global stockpiles of highly radioactive waste.

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