

Hamburg Political Science Seminar Series – HPS³

INVITATION

Please be invited to the Hamburg Empirical Political Science Seminar Series - HPS³.

The seminar series features international speakers presenting cutting-edge research in empirical political science and political economy. It takes place on Wednesdays or Thursdays in person. We invite everyone interested to attend. For further information about dates and speakers, please refer to the [HPS³ Website](#).

We welcome on

18 April 2024, 17:15-18:45 CET in VMP 5 WIWI 2079

[Ian Hurd](#) (Northwestern University)

Title: The Problem with World Order

Abstract:

Classical approaches to international relations often focus on the problem of order, which is defined as a problem of under-supply. From Immanuel Kant to Hedley Bull to Anne-Marie Slaughter, the classical tradition focuses on understanding why there isn't enough order in world politics and how to make more of it. The first project of international relations, it is said, is to create a foundation of order upon which other projects can be built.

In this tradition, 'world order' is understood to be an objective condition that is universally desirable. A closer look at the concept, however, makes it clear that it is politically contested, and every ordering project involves tradeoffs among interests and produces both losers and winners. This is equally true of the American 'rules-based order' after 1945 as it is of realist spheres of influence, and of British imperial ordering in the 19th century.

This talk reframes the debate on world order for IR around a concept of order that acknowledges its political content. It considers various definitions of order in International Relations and shows how these deploy distinct relations with historical facts, scientific models, and policy goals. A political understanding of the idea of world order leads IR scholarship away from causal models and objectivist ontology, and as a result makes it easier to understand the long history of contestation around how world order should be made and who gets to make it.

This event is jointly organized with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH).

Please find the [seminar program](#) on the [HPS³ Website](#)

We invite everyone interested to attend!