

Successful Collaborative Research Projects

Project title: CAMPO South and Southeast Asian Research Collaborative

Name (grant holder 1): Iza Hussin

Department/Faculty: POLIS, University of Cambridge

Name (grant holder 2): Romain Bertrand

Department/Faculty: CERI, Sciences Po

Project summary

Scholars of South and Southeast Asia at Cambridge and Sciences Po have been undertaking research that pushes against dominant assumptions and methodologies in studies of the region, from work on religion and law, colonial encounter and environmental history, social movements and resistance, liberalism and its afterlives, regionalism and internationalism. Our aim is to foster a series of interdisciplinary discussions, based around primary research in the region, between established scholars, rising researchers, and doctoral students, that reconsider large debates in the study of South and Southeast Asia from new angles, and expand our horizons for interdisciplinary research, publication and teaching.

These discussions will revolve around three themes, decided in collaboration: liberalism and its political afterlives, political rationalities and their alternatives, inter- and trans-regional networks across and between South and Southeast Asia. To these collaborations, each institution brings a range of disciplinary and methodological approaches, as well as a broad range of expertise spanning diverse chronologies, regime types, religious and linguistic traditions, and scales of inquiry. Engaging more explicitly between Francophone and Anglophone archives and the scholarly debates emerging from them, we hope to also develop methods for conducting, teaching and disseminating cross-archival research. This diversity is not intended to provide comprehensive coverage, but to explore dominant approaches to the three themes from multiple vantage points, and to offer critical insight into their deployment and particularity.

Outcomes

Collaboration amongst historians between Cambridge and Sciences Po has been fruitful, and one aim of this series of workshops is to draw political scientists, sociologists and area studies specialists more closely into conversation, which has not been undertaken in any sustained manner previously. Past success with major European grants, such as Horizon2020, indicates what further collaborations such as these might achieve. An opportunity has arisen to also bring in Max Planck colleagues who are involved in the MaxCam collaborative centre, and we look forward to exploring new ways forward on this front. The 2019 workshops led to the development of a shared bibliography and site for collaborations, as well as a series of potential projects and workshops for the future.

Participants

Iza Hussin, Tomas Larsson; POLIS Cambridge

Laurent Gayer; CNRS/CERI Sciences Po

Romain Bertrand, David Camroux; CERI Sciences Po

Tim Harper; History Cambridge

Dominik Muller, Kristin Endres; Max Planck Halle

Jerome Tadie, Research Fellow; Institut de Recherche pour le Développement

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Risa Permanadeli, Center of Social Representations Studies, Universitas Indonesia

Nurulhuda Razif, Harvard Law School

Justinas Stankus, Cornell University

Project title: The Invisible Legal Infrastructure of Global Value Chains: A Critical Private International Law Approach

Name (grant holder 1): Horatia Muir Watt

Department/Faculty: Law School, Sciences Po

Project summary

We look at the distributional consequences of global supply chains and see how changes in the legal infrastructure of this particular mode of contemporary capitalism might bring about social transformation. Our project first explores the ways in which existing methods and concepts specific to private international legal reasoning have been “part of the problem”, serving to perpetuate and reinforce governance gaps more than providing the solutions that they profess to offer. In this respect, the conceptualization of such gaps or « law lag » (the regulatory misfit which results from law’s inability to keep up with social needs) is, rather, the combined result of policy choices and legal design. Second, moving beyond such critique, we also wish to address the forms which law takes “beyond the state” and the tools with which to approach, in legal terms, unfamiliar economic and social practice. This involves looking at the relationship between potential « hard » liability (as opposed to « soft » corporate social responsibility) for corporate investors and the investment regimes of which they invoke the protection ; in this context, it might call into question current practice in terms of dispute resolution (investment arbitration). On a more theoretical level, we aim to think about the availability of concepts and doctrines with which transnational value chains might be more adequately captured than through the traditional distinctions between corporation and contract. For instance, network theory could provide a promising model, but would require considerable further elaboration as a legal category.

Outcomes

1. Mapping of the literature on global value chains and its relevance for international legal debates
2. Consolidation of our database on global value chains

Participants:

Dr Fernando Lusa Bordin, University of Cambridge

Megan Ma, PhD Fellow, SciencesPo Law School

Project title: JOINT DOCTORAL SCHOOL-Freedom of movement, surveillance and borders

Name (grant holder 1): Didier Bigo

Department/Faculty: Political sciences- CERI, Sciences Po

Name (grant holder 2): Tugba Basaran

Department/Faculty: Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement, University of Cambridge

Project summary

The joint doctoral school workshop of CAMPO on migration, borders, discrimination took place in Sciences-Po on the 27 and 28 of April 2019 gathering 24 participants coming from Cambridge and Sciences-Po with some guests coming from King's College London. We asked students to engage into their theoretical standpoint and PHD originality, within the topic they selected as relevant for a future (post-)doctoral research, as well as to formulate the link between their specific objects and the kind of method(s) that they employ, how they combine them, and what techniques they use to implement their methodology. The originality of the workshop's formula is that students do not present their own paper. They are paired with a colleague coming from a different university and they have to present the paper of their mate. Subsequently, each paper is commented upon by an invited faculty member. The student has time to answer in detail to the questions to his own paper. This technique is very helpful to acquire precision on the key elements of the paper they want to emphasize and to "translate" it clearly for a short presentation done by someone else, as well as to be fair on the presentation and discussion of someone else paper, giving a better mastering of international conference in the role of presenter and commentator. The workshop is also key for developing a network at the international scale which will help to build successful panel's proposal for international conference. Contacts: Didier Bigo didier.bigo@sciencespo.fr ; Tugba Basaran tb317@cam.ac.uk

Outcomes

Future collaboration is explored in order to have a more permanent roving seminar between the two universities, with the addition of King's College London who has also a long history of collaboration for these joint doctoral workshops through a similar format (SPOK). Consolidating the workshop each year between the two universities (and may be five via the Doctoral LISS DTP joining KCL-Queen Mary and Imperial) is the first step for reinforcing the link between PHD students and open them to diverse visions of the discipline and methods, as well as key authors in other language.

Students have made proposals together for panels at EISA and ISA after this meeting and some of them have been successful.

On the research side, an international series of seminar around the Global Compact between different scholars who met at the Campo meeting is in preparation for the spring 2021. It may also depending on successful funding application be connected with a new joined CAMPO-SPOK application

As an outgrowth of our Campo collaboration and discussion for an on-going platform, beneficial for early career researchers and academics across both institutions, we started the journal PARISS, bringing together academics from the Centre (Susan Robertson, Tugba Basaran, and Jenny Mander) and Sciences-Po (Didier Bigo, Hélène Thiollet, Benoit Pelopidas). In upcoming workshops as well as in the journal, we will continue to engage in "collaboration between Anglophone and Francophone traditions of thoughts and methods, ways of mediating theory and practice and traversing established academic cultures" and seek to "encounter linguistic barriers, but cultural barriers and disciplinary barriers", as outlined in our Campo proposal.

Participants

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Project title: 10 Questions on Affordable Housing: A Collaborative Project on Affordable Housing and Urban Policy in Mumbai

Name (grant holder 1): Dr Ronita Bardhan

Department/Faculty: Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge, UK

Name (grant holder 2): Dr Sukriti Issar

Department/Faculty: Observatoire Sociologique du Changement (OSC), Sciences Po University

Project summary

Affordable housing has particular resonance with informality. The need for affordable housing is critical in closing the colossal housing deficit, yet what affordable housing entails remains elusive. There is a growing consensus that informality shapes cities and perhaps need to be formally acknowledged within the housing domain. Theoretically, affordable housing policy not only promises to solve the problem of homelessness but can potentially have knock-on effects in climate future proofing. This project intends to develop interlinkages between different intersections of urban informality and housing by deriving interdisciplinary questions for high-impact policy research. It will systematically scope broader and most pressing issues concerning housing deficit, affordability and climate change mitigation in urban poverty. The aim of this project is to generate a roadmap on interdisciplinary questions that are relevant to the urbanising Global South with similar inequalities concerning housing under the uncertainties of warming climate. This research will provide a new lens of viewing policy legacies and institutional history of slum rehabilitation policymaking at local and municipal governance-level. Another critical contribution of this project is the implementation of a computational social science methodology to extract crowdsourced interactions on affordable housing policies and discourses using public posts on social media. It illustrates a novel analytical approach complementing traditional participatory stakeholder-based surveys. While affordable housing and informality is mostly embedded in the cities of the global south, it is a global, phenomenon and this research will provide some answers to this dilemma.

Outcomes

- Visit to the slum rehabilitation sites in Mumbai and conduct informal interviews with the participants
- Publishing the working paper in relevant journals like PLoS ONE, Habitat International etc.
- We will be working on developing this project further for research grant proposals to AHRC and ESRC in the UK with collaborators from Cambridge and Sciences Po.

Participants

P K Das (Architect, designer)

N C Narayanan (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)

Malini Krishnankutty (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)

Sahil Gandhi (fellow at Centre for Social and Economic Progress, Mumbai)

Amita Bhide (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai)

Veronique Dupont (CESSMA, Université de Paris)

Champak Rajagopal (Azim Premji University, Bangalore)

Shahana Chattaraj (WRI, Bangalore)

Marie-Hélène Zerah (Center for Policy Research, New Delhi)