

Rethinking the past and present of liberal internationalism

International workshop

Call for Papers

Location: City, University of London, and London School of Economics

Date: 11/12 May 2023

In recent years there is a surge in scholarly debates on the origins, transformations, legacies, and applications of liberal internationalism. Although there is no consensus on the term and its analytical frame of reference, most historians trace the emergence of liberal internationalist ideology in anglophone debates on international order during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. More recently, the language of liberal internationalism has been redeployed by IR scholars as a remedy to the crisis of western liberal democracy. The time seems ripe to revisit the concept of liberal internationalism and rethink its multiple pasts and presents. To what extent can one speak of a coherent “liberal internationalist” zeitgeist? What does “liberal internationalism” mean in different periods and in different contexts? Are there non-western liberal internationalist traditions? How has empire and nationalism shaped liberal and internationalist imaginaries? What sense do we make of binary categories such as idealism/realism, internationalism/isolationism that have shaped the debate on liberal international institutions and politics?

The workshop wishes to bring together historians, IR scholars and political theorists to survey the field of liberal internationalism and sketch out future research directions. We invite new work touching on (but not limited to) some of the following broad themes:

- Empire, race, and liberty
- The concept of liberal internationalism and its usefulness
- International orders and disorders
- Non-western liberal international traditions
- International governance and international organizations
- The concepts of civilization and international crisis
- The canon of liberal international thought and its exclusions
- Gender and international thought
- Liberal internationalism today

We invite interested applicants to submit a 500-word abstract and a one-page CV in one file by 15 December 2022 to georgios.giannakopoulos@city.ac.uk and patricia.chiantera@uniba.it. The successful applicants will be notified by mid-January 2023 and will be asked to submit a 2,500-word draft by 1 May 2023.

Programme Committee: Professor Inderjeet Parmar, Dr. Georgios Giannakopoulos, Dr. Patricia Chiantera-Stutte, Dr. Or Rosenboim, Dr. Aaron McKeil

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