

BISA 2018 Research Workshop in International Studies Proposal

Workshop Title: *Everyday Nationalism in World Politics*

Co-convenors: Paul Goode (University of Bath), Eleanor Knott (LSE)

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Abstract (topic, aims and objectives)

This proposed **topic** for this workshop is *Everyday Nationalism in World Politics*. The rationale is two-fold: first, the geopolitical surprises of recent years point to the fragile and even volatile nature of political order. These events seem surprising because power and authority are built on a quotidian level during 'quiet' times. However, first, these everyday factors evade observation by political science approaches that favor contestation and conflict over legitimation. Second, many emerging challenges to global order increasingly are framed in terms of nationalism and national identities, regardless of whether those identities are re-imagined or displaced in relation to rising populist and nativist movements, immigration and citizenship, religion and faith, or peace and conflict.

The **aim** of the workshop is to *provide a platform for transforming existing research into global political phenomena by placing the quotidian politics of national identity at their core*.

Nationalism is an eclectic, inter-disciplinary field by nature. "Everyday nationalism" as an approach emerged over the last two decades at the intersection of sociological, anthropological, geographical and historical research on nationalism.¹ It focuses on ordinary social practices and interactions that activate, sustain or challenge group identities.² While much of this work remains divided by disciplinary agendas and area expertise outside of political science, interest in quotidian politics has been on the rise in studies of conflict resolution, the state, migration, citizenship, ethno-religious boundaries and the European Union.³ Nevertheless, political scientists often are unaware of advances in studying everyday nationalism in other social sciences such that cumulative knowledge is sacrificed. This workshop aims to draw scholars researching everyday nationalism out of their disciplinary and area studies silos, to forge a research agenda based on a shared approach, and to address the pressing need for grassroots field research on contemporary political concerns.

Our **objectives** are methodological and collaborative. The workshop seeks to identify best practices and to encourage methodological innovation in researching everyday nationalism, with particular attention to managing challenging contexts (understood in terms of political, social, and personal risk) and ethical risks. Second, it aims to foster research collaboration across disciplines and areas by identifying common repertoires of everyday nationalist practices and (where possible) to make qualitative field observations available for secondary analysis. In the longer run, it seeks to

¹ Key works in this approach include: Michael Billig, *Banal Nationalism* (London: Sage Publications, 1995); Tim Edensor, *National Identity, Popular Culture and Everyday Life* (Oxford: Berg Publishers, 2002); Rogers Brubaker et al., *Nationalist Politics and Everyday Ethnicity in a Transylvania Town* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006); Michael Skey, *National Belonging and Everyday Life: The Significance of Nationhood in an Uncertain World* (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

² Jon E. Fox and Cynthia Miller-Idriss, "Everyday Nationhood," *Ethnicities* 8, no. 4 (2008): 536–63, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796808088925>; J. Paul Goode and David R. Stroup, "Everyday Nationalism: Constructivism for the Masses," *Social Science Quarterly* 96, no. 3 (2015): 717–39, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12188>.

³ Séverine Autesserre, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention* (Cambridge University Press, 2014); Peter Bratsis, *Everyday Life and the State* (London: Routledge, 2016); Jon E. Fox and Demelza Jones, "Migration, Everyday Life and the Ethnicity Bias," *Ethnicities* 13, no. 4 (2013): 385–400, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796813483727>; Cynthia Miller-Idriss, *Blood and Culture: Youth, Right-Wing Extremism, and National Belonging in Contemporary Germany* (Duke University Press, 2009); David R. Stroup, "Boundaries of Belief: Religious Practices and the Construction of Ethnic Identity in Hui Muslim Communities," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40, no. 6 (2017): 988–1006, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2016.1193211>.

benefit research on emergent and timely phenomena where everyday nationalism shapes state-society relations.

Intellectual significance

As an interdisciplinary field, nationalism studies typically focus on top-down analysis of elites and questions of the origins of nations and nationalism. In political science, research on nationalism similarly concentrates on elites and the mobilization or institutionalization of national identities. Everyday nationalism arose to study nationalism as a “bottom up” and ordinary phenomenon, in which citizens’ voice and agency are the objects of analysis. Everyday nationalism is an emergent approach to political science research, but scholars remain scattered across the field.

The significance of this proposed workshop is threefold concerning the contribution of everyday nationalism for studying state-society relations. First, conceptually, the workshop builds on political science approaches that emphasize the everyday as a relevant site of politics and political analysis.⁴ Research on everyday politics draws on the “practice-turn” in which political scientists study the social practices and experiences underpinning important but often overlooked dimensions of processes like European integration.⁵ In taking practices as the unit of analysis, rather than groups or individuals, the approach makes good on the constructivist exhortation to de-naturalize groups and to focus, instead, on the production of “groupness”.⁶

Second, methodologically, this workshop will draw together scholars who emphasize getting “out of the armchair” and into the field where everyday politics occurs. In turn, the workshop’s agenda will go beyond existing approaches to the everyday, which have focused on advanced liberal democracies,⁷ by addressing a regionally and politically diverse set of cases. This will be facilitated by involving scholars based at institutions beyond North America, including Europe and the post-Soviet space. It will further seek to innovate beyond existing ethnographic approaches to the everyday, recognizing the need to develop new tools in light of practical and ethical challenges.⁸

Finally, this workshop will also propose a future direction for nationalism studies within political science. With fears of rising nationalism, xenophobia, and the emergence of a “New Nationalism” in the twenty first century, everyday nationalism provides the tools for political scientists to study these phenomena while advancing the field of nationalism studies beyond its historical focus. For example, we will address issues of how dynamics of populism and legitimacy intersect with everyday nationalism in different and/or similar ways in authoritarian, quasi-authoritarian and democratic regime types. *How does everyday nationalism illuminate variations in state legitimation across regime types? What does everyday nationalism reveal about the diffusion of nationalist and populist repertoires across institutional and state borders? What does everyday*

⁴ Lisa Wedeen, *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999); James C. Scott, *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986).

⁵ Rebecca Adler-Nissen, “Towards a Practice Turn in EU Studies: The Everyday of European Integration,” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 54, no. 1 (January 2016): 87–103, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.12329>; John M. Hobson and Leonard Seabrooke, “Everyday IPE: Revealing Everyday Forms of Change in the World Economy,” in *Everyday Politics of the World Economy*, ed. John M. Hobson and Leonard Seabrooke (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 1–24; Kathleen R. McNamara, *The Politics of Everyday Europe: Constructing Authority in the European Union* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

⁶ Rogers Brubaker, *Ethnicity Without Groups* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004).

⁷ Bart Bonikowski, “Nationalism in Settled Times,” *Annual Review of Sociology* 42, no. 1 (2016): 427–49, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-081715-074412>.

⁸ Jon E. Fox, “The Edges of the Nation: A Research Agenda for Uncovering the Taken-for-Granted Foundations of Everyday Nationhood,” *Nations and Nationalism*, 2016, 26–47, <https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12269>; Goode and Stroup, “Everyday Nationalism”; Eleanor Knott, “Generating Data: Studying Identity Politics from a Bottom-Up Approach in Crimea and Moldova,” *East European Politics and Societies* 29, no. 2 (2015): 467–86, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0888325415584047>.

nationalism reveal about efforts to build peace? How does organized religion interact with everyday nationalism and populism? How do migrants experience everyday nationalism?

Dissemination of outputs

Our first publication goal is a special journal issue bringing together workshop papers to discuss the questions of methods, field research and ethics that arise in using everyday nationalism as an approach to study world politics. We would seek to submit this special issue to a leading IR journal in 2018. Our second publication goal is an edited volume (ideally, in the Cambridge Studies in International Relations series) which will introduce everyday nationalism as an approach to study questions of world politics, building on the substantive four themes of the workshop. If possible, we would like to involve a publisher from the start of the workshop. Third, we envisage scope for thematic special issues or symposia which focus on individual workshop themes (e.g. citizenship and migration). Finally, to broaden the audience of the workshop, we hope to develop a website and online forum which can host material from the workshop, including brief blog articles written by workshop participants.

Workshop Format

The workshop will be divided into four sessions on the following themes:

Session 1 (9.00-10.30)
Citizenship & migration

We will explore how everyday nationalism can be an approach to study citizenship, as a category of social and political identity and legal status, that is constituted through quotidian social practices, as well as how migrants experience and learn the 'edges of the nation' in their daily lives.

Contributors:

Eleanor Knott
Jon Fox
Elizabeth Mavroudi
Olga Onuch (discussant)

Session 2 (11.00-12.30)
Peace & conflict

We will explore how everyday nationalism can be an approach to study peace and the micro-foundations of conflict management, as well as what nationalism at the everyday level might challenge existing approaches to building peace in diverse societies.

Contributors:

Denisa Kostovicova & Ivor Sokolic
Gezim Krasniqi
Timo Kivimaki
Andrea Purdekova (discussant)

Session 3 (13.30-15.00)
Populism & legitimacy

We will explore the ways that everyday nationalism reveals variations in state legitimation across regime types (e.g. across authoritarian, democratic and quasi-authoritarian regimes). We will also explore what the approach might reveal about the diffusion of nationalist and populist repertoires within institutions and across state borders.

Contributors:

Karine Clement
Alex Dukalksis
Maryia Rohava
Paul Goode (discussant)

Session 4 (15.30-17.00)
Religion & belonging

We will explore how the approach of everyday nationalism can illuminate the daily practices through which organized religion intersects and articulates ethnic boundaries.

Contributors:

Jesko Schmoller
David Stroup
Guzel Yusupova
Scott Thomas (discussant)

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