International Studies and the Challenges of Interdisciplinarity

Colloquium organized by the Institute for Advanced International Studies (HEI)

March 20-21, 2015
Laval University
Quebec city, Quebec, Canada

Call for Proposals

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Institute for Advanced International Studies at the University Laval (HEI) celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2014. This represents an exceptional moment to reflect on the past, present and future of International Studies in Québec, the francophone sphere, and beyond, and most particularly to discuss the interdisciplinary evolution of this field of study and research. In the context of interdisciplinary institutions dedicated to graduate education in International Studies, the topics of continuities and discontinuities are particularly important at such points of juncture. For example, the transition from “International Relations” to “International Studies” is promising increasing integration of related disciplines, previously considered unrelated. Up to which point is this interdisciplinary integration can move and mark a departure from the previous field of International Relations? What are the epistemological, ontological, and administrative challenges that this integrative trajectory has generated, is generating and will generate? The goal of this workshop is to share our past experiences and to advance future solutions to these questions.

At the University Laval, the institutional change from the Centre Québécois des Relations Internationales (CQRI) to the Institut Québécois des Hautes Études Internationales (HEI) in 1994, and the following transformations in the HEI education programs, underlines the gradual construction of a field of “International Studies”, which originates from the field of “International Relations”. Beyond this specific case, the challenges of interdisciplinarity in International Studies appear under multiple guises. These challenges are for example associated with the transformations in the object of study associated with International Studies, the connexions between multiple fields of study and research, the specific development in Québec and the francophone sphere, the organization of education programs at multiple academic levels, and the management of academic institutions with a specific interdisciplinary mission in International Studies.

During the workshop, discussions on these perspectives could benefit from a comparative approach as well as epistemological, sociological, and historical analyses. By going beyond the traditional historiography of the academic field of International Relations, this workshop will enable us to situate the history of the HEI and other education institutions dedicated to International Studies in the local and institutional context as well as the major regional and global developments of the field in the last decades. By highlighting the role of the HEI and similar institutions in Québec, Canada, the francophone sphere and beyond, this project will finally echo the increasing interest toward the analysis of specific research institutions, practices, and education programs in the development of the field of International Studies.

Proposals about integration experiences between diverse disciplines in the study and research of major topics such as institutional design, the agri-business field, conflicts associated with natural resources, etc., will be particularly appreciated.

THEMES
We foresee three transversal themes, namely the development, organization, and management of education programs (at the university level) in International Studies. For that matter, several academic and practical questions are relevant regarding the field of International Studies. While this list is only indicative, these are some of the main perspectives we wish to articulate during the workshop:

- The historical development of the academic field of International Studies/Relations;
- The challenges in epistemological integration between the diverse academic fields associated with International Studies, e.g., ‘Area studies,’ Law, political science, economics, sociology, as well as psychology, geography, neuroscience, art history, etc.;
- The development of a francophone sphere in International Studies;
- The social relevance of International Studies and its links with practitioners.
- The impact of systemic mutations (the transformation of the international economic system, the globalized numeric era, new global threats etc.) on the development, organization and management of post-secondary educational programs.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Profs. Thomas Bierstecker (Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement, Université de Genève) and Anne-Marie D’Aoust (Département de Science politique, UQAM) will each pronounce a public conference. Prof. Biersteker will make a significant contribution to the colloquium by presenting an analysis of historical tendencies and transformation in the educational post-secondary practices in the field of International Studies. As part of international research group led by scholars group located at the College William and Mary in the United States, Prof. D’Aoust will present detailed data on the multidisciplinary activities of Québec and Canadian scholars involved in International Studies, on the basis of a vast international survey titled “Teaching, Research, and International Politics” (TRIP).

**LANGAGE OF THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE WORKSHOP:** English and French

**COLLOQUIUM FORMAT**

The colloquium will be organized around a series of roundtable on each of the main theme. Selected presenters are invited to participate in each roundtable. Each roundtable will begin by a short presentation (5 to 8 minutes) of 3 or 4 presenters. A discussant will moderate the following discussion.

**SCHEDULE**

- **December 19, 2014**
  Proposals (maximum of 200 words), in French or English, should be sent by email before December 12 to: colloqueEI@hei.ulaval.ca. Each proposal will be evaluated by the scientific committee. Decisions will be communicated prior to January 9, 2015.

- **January 12, 2015**
  Beginning of Registration on www hei ulaval ca colloqueEI

- **March 2, 2015**
  Summary (1000 words) of each presentation, in French or English, should be sent no later than March 2 by email to: colloqueEI@hei.ulaval.ca. Those who wish to make their presentation available are
encouraged to send it to them to the same address. Each summary will be made available online before the workshop on the website www.hei.ulaval.ca/colloqueEI.

- March 6, 2015
The final registration date for those who wish to benefit from reduced registration fees is March 6, 2015. Beyond this date, the cost of the registration is increased by 20%. A dinner will be held for all participants on March 20, including those who are not presenting, at a cost of $30. All fees are calculated in Canadian currency.

REGISTRATION FEES

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SPECIAL ISSUE

The workshop is organized along with a call for proposal on a similar theme for a special issue of the journal Études Internationales. Presenters will be invited to produce a manuscript conforming to the journal’s guidelines. A small budget will be available for translating one or two article from English to French.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Erick Duchesne, Political Science Department, Laval University (Organizing Committee)
- Félix Grenier, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa (Organizing Committee)
- Louis Bélanger, Director of the HEI, Laval University
- Georges Azzaria, Faculty of Law, Laval University
- Kristin Bartenstein, Faculty of Law, Laval University
- Chantal Blouin, National Institute of Public Health, Quebec City
- Sophie Brière, Department of Management, Laval University
- Daniel Caron, Diplomat in residence, HEI, Laval University
- Charles-Emmanuel Côté, Faculty of Law, Laval University
- Talbot Imlay, Department of Historical Sciences, Laval University
- Stéphane Leman-Langlois, School of Social Services, Laval University
- Hugo Loiseau, School of Applied Politics, University of Sherbrooke
- Jean-Frédéric Morin, Political Science Department, Laval University
- Zhan Su, Management Department, Laval University
- Lota Dabio Tamini, Department of Agricultural Economics, Laval University

CONTACT INFORMATION

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