

# **Comparative Regionalisms: Changing Forms of Governance in Asia, Africa and the Americas and the Effects on the World Order**

**2-12 July 2012**

## **Detailed Course Description**

### **Course Directors:**

**Amitav Acharya**, School of International Service, American University, Washington D.C., USA

**Matteo Fumagalli**, Department of International Relations and European Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

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### **Course Faculty:**

**Mark Aspinwall**, Politics and International Relations, University of Edinburgh, UK

**Rick Fawn**, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews, UK

**J. Andrew Grant**, Department of Political Studies, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Regionalism has become a central feature of global politics. Regional arrangements challenge the centrality of states in international relations, they give rise to new forms of transnational governance and to varying extents they constitute a response to globalization.

The course considers the rise of 'regions' after World War II and the resurgence of the idea in and from the 1980s. It considers the different interpretations, values and expectations assigned to 'region', from regional free trade agreements to security communities to supra-national integrative projects. The participant emphasis will be on considering in comparative fashion when a region is said to have arisen – and by whom. It will also consider how such regions vary across time and geography, assuming different characteristics. The sessions will also consider to what extent regions are a result of globalization and the extent to which they constitute global order. Over the past few decades we have learnt a great deal about the European experience of regional cooperation evolving into integration and in a supra-state model of governance.

The course fosters new approaches to the study of regionalisms in Asia, Africa and the Americas, paying special attention to their origins, specific features, their changing characters, and their effects on world order. Among the key questions discussed in the course are the following: when is a region a region?, how and when do regions rise to international prominence?, how do different regions interact with each other (if at all)?, how do regions and types of regionalism change?

These questions are not purely academic: understanding why regions form, organize and institutionalize can shed light on the process of change such regions undergo, but also contributes to understanding processes of inter-regional relations, so far left at the margins of academic debates. Ultimately they speak to one of the key questions in the study of international relations, namely that of war and peace.

The course also pays special attention to methodological issues arising from inter-regional comparisons, as well as to the extent to which western theories, largely designed to account for the process of European integration, can also explain non-western varieties of regionalism.

The aim of the course is three-fold: first to introduce varieties of new regionalisms in Asia, Africa and the Americas; critically engage extant theories of regionalism and discuss the extent to which western theories and models can be applied to other types of regionalism; examine questions of inter-regional relations and regional change. The course also pays special attention to methodological issues pertaining to the study of comparative regionalism. The course is aimed for an academic audience and in particular graduate students and early career scholars.

### **Format and assessment**

The course extends over eleven days (nine working days, 32 hours), from 2 to 12 July 2012. Course participants obtain 2 ECTS. The course combines lectures with workshops, individual and group assignments, simulations, and seminar discussions to create a highly interactive learning environment. Assessment types will include class participation, quality of individual projects, and engagement in group activities and assignments.

### **Tentative syllabus**

#### **Topic 1. Comparative Regionalism: Theoretical Approaches**

Faculty member: Amitav Acharya

Number of hours: 3

Teaching mode: Lecture (50 min.) & Seminar (100 min.)

Discussion points:

- We will review the theories of regionalism, including realist, liberal and constructivist theories to address the following questions:
- To what extent the original theories of regional order and integration are relevant today?
- How relevant are those Western theories for understanding regionalism in other parts of the world?
- What lessons can one derive from comparing the characteristics of regionalism as a universal process?

#### **Topic 2. Post-Communist Regional Cooperation: The Baltic and ECE Experiences**

Faculty member: Rick Fawn

Number of hours: 4

Teaching mode: Lecture (50 min.) & Seminar (100 min.)

Discussion points:

The areas outside of the FSU have experienced very substantial and divergent forms of regional cooperation since the late 1980s. These include the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Visegrad, the Central European Free Trade Agreement, and Black Sea Economic Cooperation, as well as many subnational and/or cross-border initiatives. This session examines their rise, membership choice, policy aspirations and limitations.

#### **Topic 3. Varieties of post-Soviet regionalism**

Faculty member: Matteo Fumagalli

Number of hours: 5

Teaching mode: Lecture (50 min.), Seminar (100 min.), simulation (100 min.)

Discussion points:

The three sessions examine security and economic regionalism in the post-Soviet space:

- From the CIS to the CSTO: twenty years of (lack of progress in) post-Soviet regionalism
- How relevant are Western theories of regionalism for understanding regional dynamics in the post-Soviet space?
- China and the post-Soviet space: Origins and evolution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

**Topic 4. Comparative regionalisms: what to compare, when to compare**

Faculty member: Youngmi Kim

Number of hours: 6

Teaching mode: Lecture (50 min.), seminar (50 min.), individual and group assignments (200 min.)

Discussion points:

The first two sessions are mainly methodological:

- Can we compare different experiences and processes of regional cooperation/integration?
- Under what circumstances and what for?

The focus of the latter two sessions is on questions of change (within regions) and inter-regional relations.

**Topic 5. African macro- and micro-regionalisms**

Faculty member: J. Andrew Grant

Number of hours: 4

Teaching mode: Lecture (50 min.), Seminar (50 min.), group discussion and simulation (100 min.)

Discussion points:

Seeking to unpack the state-society complex in Africa and integrate human security and human development the session touches on the following points:

- The sources of weak statehood in Africa;
- The effects of the changes in the international political economy on micro-regionalisms and regionalization;
- The security and development nexus and the regionalization processes.

**Topic 6. NAFTA and Mercosur**

Faculty member: Mark Aspinwall

Number of hours: 4

Teaching mode: Lecture (50 min.), Seminar (100 min.) and Group Discussion (50min.)

Discussion points:

The session discusses the following points:

- Origin and evolution of trade blocs;
- Institutional and leadership requirements of regional integration agreements in the Americas:

- NAFTA

- Mercosur
- Nafta-ization

## **Bibliography**

*This is a preliminary list of recommended readings; closer to the course a final (smaller) reading list will be made available to accepted applicants.*

Peter J. Katzenstein, *A World of Regions: Asia and Europe in the American Imperium* (Cornell University Press, 2005).

Rick Fawn, “‘Regions’ and Their Study: Where From, What For and Where To’, *Review of International Studies*, (2008): 5-34.

Amitav Acharya and Alastair Iain Johnston, eds. *Crafting Cooperation: Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), Introduction and Conclusion.

Antje Wiener and Thomas Diez, *European Regional Integration Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2004), Chapters 1-4.

Rachel A. Epstein, ‘Nato Enlargement and the Spread of Democracy: Evidence and Expectations’, *Security Studies*, 414:1, (2005): 63 – 105.

Paul Kubicek, ‘The Commonwealth of Independent States: an example of failed regionalism?’ in Fawn ed., *Globalising the Regional, Regionalising the Global* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Dan Reiter, ‘Why NATO Enlargement Does Not Spread Democracy’, *International Security* 25: 4, (2001): 41-67.

S. Lebedev, ‘The CIS, an Area of Effective Cooperation’, *International Affairs (Moscow)*, 3, (2009): 41-46.

Donald J. Puchala, ‘The Integration Theorists and the Study of International Relations’, *International Organization*, 55: 3, (2001): 553-88.

Alberta Sbragia (2008), ‘Comparative Regionalism: What Might It Be?’, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 46 (2008): 29-49.

Amitav Acharya, *Whose Ideas Matter? Agency and Power in Asian Regionalism* (Cornell University Press, 2009), Chapters 1-2.

Amitav Acharya, ‘Regional Worlds in a Post-Hegemonic Era’, *SPIRIT Working Papers*, No.1 (Science Po, 2009). Available at:

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Rick Fawn, ed. *Globalising the Regional, Regionalising the Global* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Mark Aspinwall, *The Rules of Integration: Institutional Approaches to the Study of Europe* co edited with Gerald Schneider (Manchester University Press, 2001).

Justin Greenwood, ed. *Collective Action in the European Union: Interests and the New Politics of Associability* (Routledge, 1998).

Martin Dangerfield, 'The Contribution of the Visegrad Group to the European Union's 'Eastern' Policy: Rhetoric or Reality?' *Europe-Asia Studies*, 61:10, (2009).

Rick Fawn, 'Regional Relations and Regional Security', in Sabrina P. Ramet, ed., *Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989*, (Cambridge University Press, 2010): 495-518.

Andrew Grant, and Fredrik Soderbaum, eds. *New Regionalism in Africa*, (Ashgate, 2003).  
Kathleen Collins, 'Economic and Security Regionalism among Patrimonial Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of Central Asia', *Europe-Asia Studies*, 61:2, (2009).

*Regionalisation and Regionalism in the Post-Soviet Space: Current Status and Implications for Institutional Development* Alexander Libman *Europe-Asia Studies*, 59: 3 (2007): 401-430.

Louise Fawcett, *Exploring Regional Domains: A Comparative History of Regionalism*, *International Affairs*, 80: 3, (2004): 429-446.

Andrew Hurrell, *The Regional Dimension in International Relations Theory*, in Mary Farrell, ed., *Global Politics of Regionalism*, (Pluto Press, 2005): 38-53.

Andrew Hurrell and Louise Fawcett, *Regionalism in World Politics: Regional Organization and International Order*, (Oxford University Press, 1995).

Andrew Grant. 'Informal Cross-Border Micro-Regionalism in West Africa: The Case of the Parrot's Beak', in Fredrik Söderbaum and Ian Taylor, eds. *Afro-Regions: The Dynamics of Cross-Border Micro-Regionalism in Africa*, (Nordic Africa Institute, 2008): 105-120.

Glenn Hook, *Subregionalism and World Order*, (Routledge, 1999).

Glenn Hook, *Microregionalism and World Order*, (Routledge, 2002).

Neil MacFarlane, 'The United States and Regionalism in Central Asia', *International Affairs*, 80:3, (2004): 447-461.

Roy Allison, 'Regionalism, Regional Structures and Security Management in Central Asia', *International Affairs*, 80: 3, (2004): 463-483.

Annette Bohr, 'Regionalism in Central Asia: New Geopolitics, Old Regional Order', *International Affairs*, 80:3, (2004): 485-502.