

PRIMO at the International Studies Association 57th Annual Convention in Atlanta, USA

16.03.2016-19.03.2016

This March four Early Stage Researchers from the PRIMO Network took part in the ISA annual convention in Atlanta. Débora Terra, Felipe Albuquerque (both ICS-UL), Insa Ewert (GIGA), and Martin Pioch (SPbU) presented their own papers in different panels and visited every day several roundtables, panels and discussion on various important issues of the field. Together with our (former) PRIMO post-doc Beverly Loke (Exeter University) and Scientists in Charge Andres Malamud (ICS-UL), Andrew Hurrell (Oxford University), Ummu Salma Bava (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Detlef Nolte (GIGA), Alexandra Koval (SPbU), and Bruno Reis (ICS-UL & King's College), also Sergey Sutyryn from the Department of World Economy at SPbU took part in the convention. ISA is a great opportunity to meet other researchers and new friends again that we made during the PRIMO workshops at our partner institutions last year. Networking and meeting new and old colleagues working on similar research topics is a great benefit of attending ISA, and where else can you discuss in person with Oliver Stuenkel, Stewart Patrick, John Ikenberry, Peter Katzenstein, Thomas Weiss, Alexander Wendt or John Mearsheimer?

ISA 2016 took place in the Hilton and Sheraton hotels and received around 5650 participants during the four days of convention. This year's main theme was "Exploring Peace", which called to pay more attention to this topic in international relations while exploring different related matters, orientations and methodologies.

Early in the morning of the first day, PRIMO Fellow Felipe Albuquerque presented his co-authored paper with Dr. Pedro Seabra (ICS-UL) on intersections between Brazilian foreign and defense policies. Their panel, entitled "The Role of Brazil in Defense and Military Diplomacy in South America", discussed the role of Brazil in cooperative security while Dr. Bruno Reis acted as one of the discussants. In the mid-morning panel, PRIMO Fellow Débora Terra also presented her paper on the power of perceptions concerning the Brazilian case. This panel was entitled "The Role of Socialization and Norms in Foreign Policy" and explored features of trust/distrust in Sino-American relations; socialization in US-Japan relation; and levels of foreign policy correspondence between European states. In the afternoon, the Fellows enjoyed interesting panels and roundtables. In the end of the afternoon, PRIMO Fellows were able to enjoy a good time in the receptions sponsored by Oxford, Routledge and KFG.

“The Political Economy of Trade Protection and Trade Liberalism”, “Quantum Mind and International Relations”, “Rising Powers and International Society: who is responsible for upholding global norms?”, “IR Meets Anthropology” – and those were just the four panels on the second day of ISA which were visited by the ESRs. The sheer number of panels, roundtables and discussions was quite overwhelming. On the bright side, the abundance of topics brings great diversity of participants, familiar and new faces.

On the third day of the convention in Atlanta we had the opportunity to attend a panels on “BRICS and New Forms of Global Governance” which involved scholars from institutions such as the GIGA and the University of Oxford, both partners in the PRIMO project. Later that day a dynamic roundtable talk took place on the newly edited Oxford Handbook on Comparative Regionalism, an impressive attempt to tackle in 27 chapters the multiple dimensions of the study of regionalism. The roundtable grouped the editors of the publication, Tanja Börzel and Thomas Risse (both at the FU Berlin), as well as professors of three PRIMO partner universities, Monica Herz (PUC Rio de Janeiro), Louise Fawcett (Oxford University), and Zhimin Chen (Fudan University). Etel Solingen (University of California Irvine) and Amitav Acharya (American University) also participated.

On Saturday, the last day of the convention in Atlanta, PRIMO hold its own panel on “Renegotiating Global Governance in a Multipolar Order”, chaired by Prof. Andrew Hurrell. The panel discussed various issues of our PRIMO network and was well visited. At first our former Experienced Researcher Dr. Beverley Loke presented her paper about “Redefining Responsibility? China’s Evolving Role in Global Governance”. Then our Scientists in Charge Prof. Umma Salma Bava (spoke about “Emerging India and Renegotiating Global Governance: Implications for Global Stability and Peace”, and Prof. Sergey Sutyurin together with Scientists in Charge Dr. Alexandra Koval presented their paper on “The Russian Perception of Global Governance and its Implications for Russian Foreign Trade Relations”. After those more country specific talks ESR Martin Pioch presented his work on “BRICS in World Trade. Does the Economic Rise or (Re-)Emerging Powers Challenge the International Trading System” and ESR Insa discussed here paper on “EU Policy Making in a Changing World Order: studying knowledge and perceptions on China”. Then Dr. Bruno Reis as discussant reflected on all papers and opened an interesting and fruitful discussion.

Also ESR Felipe Albuquerque presented in a different panel called “Political Demography and Geography of Asia” his paper on “A cooperative Global South? Brazil, India, and China strategies in multilateral Regimes. This was the last day of the convention and we all had a lot of fun, interesting panels, fruitful discussions and new contacts from various universities, all over the globe.