School of Oriental and African Studies
Department of Politics and International Studies

Identity in International Relations
(Course Code: 153400073)

Fall 2012

Lectures: Tuesday, 12:00-13:00, KLT
Lecturer: Dr Felix Berenskoetter
Room: 222 / ph: 0207 898 4682 / email: fb12@soas.ac.uk
Office Hours: Tuesday, 15:00-17:00

Tutorials: Tuesday, 14:00-15:00 (B101), 15:00-16:00 (B401)
Tutor: Dr Nicholas Michelsen
Room: 221 / email: nm64@soas.ac.uk
Office Hours: Tuesday, 16:00-17:00

DESCRIPTION AND AIDS

This option course for advanced BA Politics students explores how an identity perspective can be useful for understanding international politics. It unpacks the concept of identity and its sources – parameters forming conceptions of Self and Other – and discusses how they affect our ontology of various actors, their behaviour and how they relate. Building on the tradition of constructivist scholarship in International Relations (IR), this course has two main aims: First, to conceptually explore the different ways identities form and how this process affects social life, drawing on insights from philosophy, social theory and psychology. This will introduce students to various parameters and processes of identity politics like bordering, bonding, discrimination and socialization. Second, the course will discuss how these play out in phenomena of conflict/violence and cooperation/integration in various sites of international relations, foreign policy and nationalism. Throughout, students will be asked to also consider the ethical dimension of identity politics.

By the end of a course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the academic and policy debates on the role of identity in international politics. They will be familiar with various aspects of the identity formation process and its political nature. Students also will be introduced to methodologies suitable for undertaking research in this area and learn how to integrate an identity perspective in an analytical framework for exploring a specific empirical case.

FORMAT AND ASSESSMENT

The course will proceed in form of a one-hour lecture followed by a one-hour tutorial where students will discuss ideas and arguments drawn from the required readings. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions. You must know that you can only meaningfully contribute to the discussion if you have attended the lecture and done the readings. This course covers some difficult conceptual material, which students should not expect to grasp immediately. All the more so, it is very important you take advantage of the tutorials to engage the readings and explore the core arguments authors put forward.
Each student will be designated discussant once. The task of the discussant is to start-off debate in tutorials by posing and addressing two to three sharp questions arising out of the required readings and against the backdrop of the lecture. These questions can be critical (expressing disagreement with the argument), or supplementary (adding an aspect you think is missing). Discussants may also ask for clarification on a key aspect of the assigned text (there is always something). The discussant should not be tempted to give a presentation.

Student work will be assessed as follows:

- Essay (3,000 words): 40%
- Exam (two questions): 60%

Students must write one **3,000 word paper** on a topic exploring a phenomenon in international politics from an identity perspective. Topics must be selected from the syllabus and students must formulate a particular question which the essay engages. **Students must submit their chosen topic to the course convener by 4 December 2012 for approval.**

The paper must be submitted online and is **due on 15 January 2013**. This deadline will only be extended under exceptional circumstances and applications will need to be made in writing with supporting material through the Faculty Office. Late essays for which no extension has been given will be penalised at two percentage points per day as required by SOAS regulations. Students are also reminded that plagiarism, the unacknowledged and non-attributed copying of the work and/or ideas of another author, is an examination offence and suspected cases will be submitted to the Registry.

**READINGS**

All ‘Required Readings’ listed below are available electronically through the SOAS library or the course’s Moodle site. The ‘Further Readings’ lists allows you to broaden your reading into areas which you find particularly interesting. To access some of those texts you may need to consult other University of London libraries, such as those affiliated with the LSE, King’s College, or Senate House.

The following texts are background reading, to be consulted any time during the course:

- Younge, G. *Who Are We – and should it matter in the 21st century?* (Penguin, 2010).

The following books contain useful theoretical and empirical material and students may want to take a closer look at them:

- Weldes, J. et al. (eds.) *Cultures of Insecurity. States, Communities, and the Production of Danger* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996)

This is *not* a course on nationalism, but we will inevitably touch on this phenomenon on various occasions. Students with a particular interest in nationalism may want to have a look at these useful readers: G. Delanty and K. Kumar (eds.), *The Sage Handbook of Nations and Nationalism* (London: Sage, 2006); J. Hutchinson and A.D. Smith (eds.) *Nationalism* (Oxford

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Introduction: Constructivism, Identity and International Relations
   PART I: PARAMETERS AND PROCESSES OF IDENTITY FORMATION
2. Identity, Motivation and Action
3. Temporal Dimension: Narrating the Self from Past to Future
4. Social Identity I: Recognition and Socialization
5. Social Identity II: Drawing Boundaries
*Reading Week *
PART II: IDENTITY DYNAMICS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
6. Foreign Policy as a Site of Identity Politics
8. Positive Identification: Transnational Ties and the Politics of Amity
9. Crises, Change and Multiple Identities
10. Studying Identity: Methodological Approaches

READING LIST

   There are no required readings for this session. However, the lecture refers to the following:

George W. Bush: West Point Graduation Speech, United States Military Academy, New York, 1 June 2002 (http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/01/international/02PTEX-WEB.html)
Barack Obama: Cairo Speech (‘A New Beginning’), Cairo University, 4 June 2009 (http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/04/barack-obama-keynote-speech-egypt)

Background Readings
Fearon, J. What is Identity (as We Now Use the Word)?, unpublished manuscript (Stanford University, 1999) http://www.stanford.edu/~jfearon/papers/iden1v2.pdf
Jackson, P. T. J. and D. H. Nexon 'Relations Before States: Substance, Process, and the
Jepperson, R. L., A. Wendt and P. J. Katzenstein, 'Norms, Identity and Culture in National
Lapid, Y. and F. Kratochwil (eds.) *The Return of Culture and Identity in IR Theory*
(Boulder/London: Lynne Rienner, 1996)
Neumann, I. B. 'Self and Other in International Relations', *European Journal of International Relations* 2/2 (1996): 139-174
Owen Vandersluis, S. (ed.). *The State and Identity Construction in International Relations*
(Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1996)
Rousseau, D. L. *Identifying Threats and Threatening Identities. The Social Construction of
Realism and Liberalism* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006)
Ruggie, J. G. 'Territoriality and Beyond: Problematizing Modernity in International Relations'
Tickner, J. A. 'Identity in International Relations Theory: A Feminist Perspective', in Y. Lapid
and F. Kratochwil (eds.) *The Return of Culture and Identity in IR Theory* (Boulder/London:
Weller, C. 'Collective Identities in World Society', in M. Albert et al. (eds.) *Civilizing World
Wendt, A. 'The Agent-Structure Problem in International Relations Theory', *International
Organization* 41 (1987): 335-370
Wendt, A. *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)
Zehfuss, M. 'Constructivism and identity: A dangerous liaison', *European Journal of
International Relations* 7/3 (2000): 315-348

PART I: PARAMETERS AND PROCESSES OF IDENTITY FORMATION


Required Readings
Ross, A. G. 'Coming in from the Cold: Constructivism and Emotions', *European Journal of

Further Readings
Bloom, W. (1990), *Personal Identity, National Identity and International Relations* (Cambridge:
Cambridge University Press), Ch.1-2
Laffey, M. 'Locating Identity: performativity, foreign policy and state action', *Review of
Lebow, R. N. 'Fear, Interests and honour: outlines of a theory of international relations', *International Affairs* 82/3 (2006): 431-448
Lebow, R. N. *A Cultural Theory of International Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2008)
Renwick Monroe, K., Hankin, J. and R. Bukovchik van Vechten 'The psychological
Taylor, C. *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard
University Press, 1989), Chapters 1 and 2
McSweeney, B. *Security, Identity and Interests: A Sociology of International Relations*
(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Required Readings

[Younge *Who Are We*, chapter 1]

Further Readings
Self as Individual

Self as Nation/State
Babha, H. *Nation and Narration* (Routledge, 1990)
Edkins, J. *Trauma and the Memory of Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2003)
Litvak, M. *Palestinian Collective Memory and National Identity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)
Zertal, I. *Israel's Holocaust and the Politics of Nationhood* (Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Required Readings

Suggested:

[Younge Who Are We, chapters 2 and 3]

Further Readings
Recognition:
Gheciu, A. I. NATO in the 'New Europe': The Politics of International Socialization After the Cold War (Stanford University Press, 2005)
Strömbom, L. ‘Thick Recognition. Advancing Theory on Identity Change in Intractable Conflicts’ European Journal of International Relations (2012, online first)

Socialization:
Foucault, M. Power/Knowledge (New York: Pantheon, 1980)
Mead, G. H. Mind, Self and Society, part 3
Strozier, R. Foucault, Subjectivity, and Identity: Historical Constructions of Subject and Self (Wayne State University Press, 2002)


Required Readings

Suggested:

[Younge Who Are We, chapter 4]

Further Readings
Doty, R. L. Imperial Encounters: The Politics of Representation in North-South Relations (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996)

Hansen, L. *Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War* (London: Routledge, 2006), Ch. 2 and 3


Neumann, I. B. ‘Self and Other in International Relations’, *European Journal of International Relations* 2/2 (1996): 139-174


Walker, R. B. J. *After the Globe, Before the World* (Routledge, 2009)

See also Walker’s syllabus on ‘Boundaries, Borders, Limits’

*Reading Week *

**PART II: IDENTITY DYNAMICS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

6. **Foreign Policy as a Site of Identity Politics – 13 Nov.**

**Required Readings**


**Further Readings**


Bozdaglioğlu, Y. *Turkish Foreign Policy and Turkish Identity* (London: Routledge, 2003).


7. **Negative Identification: Danger, Violence and Exclusion – 22 Nov.**

**Required Readings**


[Younge Who Are We, chapter 7]

**Further Readings**


Neumann, I. B. Uses of the Other: ‘The East’ in European Identity Formation (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999)
Todorov, T. The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other (University of Oklahoma Press, 1999)
Weldes, J. et al. (eds.) Cultures of Insecurity. States, Communities, and the Production of Danger (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996)
→ See also literature on ‘Securitization’ (posted on Moodle)


Required Readings

Further Readings
Acharya, A. The Quest for Identity: International Relations of Southeast Asia (Singapore: Oxford University Press, 2000)
Dumbrell, J. A special relationship: Anglo-American relations from the Cold War to Iraq (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006)
Kratochwil, F. ‘Rethinking the ‘inter’ in International Politics’, Millennium, 35/3 (2008): 495-511
Wendt, A. Social Theory of International Politics (Cambridge University Press, 1999)

9. Crisis, Change and Multiple Identities – 6 Dec.

Required Readings:
Huntington, S. P. ‘The Hispanic Challenge’, Foreign Policy (March/April 2004)

Suggested:

[Younge, Ch. 6 and Conclusion]

Further Readings:
Crisis and Change:
Huntington, S. Who Are We: The Challenges to America’s National Identity (Simon & Schuster, 2004)
Kelman, H. C. ‘Reconciliation as Identity Change: A Social-Psychological Perspective’, in Y. Bar-Siman-Tov (ed.) From Conflict Resolution to Reconciliation (Oxford University Press, 2004), Ch. 5
Strömbom, L. ‘Thick Recognition. Advancing Theory on Identity Change in Intractable Conflicts’ European Journal of International Relations (2012, online first)

Pluralist Perspectives:
Ahmad, L. A Quiet Revolution: the Veil’s Resurgence from the Middle East to America. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011)
Bhaba, H. The Location of Culture (London: Routledge 1994)
Butler, J. Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (London: Routledge 1990)
Lebow, R. N. The Politics and Ethics of Identity (Cambridge University Press, 2012)
Odysseos, L. The Subject of Coexistence: Otherness in International Relations, (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007)
Paolini, A. J. Navigating Modernity: Postcolonialism, Identity and International Relations (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999), Introduction
Parekh, B. Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory (Harvard University Press, 2002)

**10. How to Study Identity? – 13 Dec.**

**Required Readings**

**Further Readings**
Hansen, L. *Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War* (London: Routledge, 2003), Part 1