

# THE IDEATIONAL TURN IN INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN STUDIES: Revisions, Reflections and Re-Considerations of the ›Power of Ideas‹ Hypothesis

Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation and the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick

Date: June 1, 2003.

## Aims of Workshop

Place: CSGR Seminar Room (S1.50), 1<sup>st</sup>  
Floor Social Studies Building,  
Univ. of Warwick.

After a period of neglect, if not hostility, toward ideational explanations we are now faced with a burgeoning literature on the role of ideas. Indeed, it now seems obligatory for every work in international and European studies to consider the ›power of ideas‹ hypothesis – even if only then to dismiss it.

Deadline for submission: March 4,  
2003.

This workshop aims at evaluating the current wave of ideational scholarship and to address much debated issues like:

Please send your abstracts and any  
inquires to: Andreas Gofas, Dept. of  
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UK; e-mail: A\_Gofas@hotmail.com.

- just what sort of an approach an ideational approach is,
- which are its central assumptions,
- what kind of problems remain unresolved by scholars advocating this approach,
- whether it constitutes a distinct approach with a fully-fledged developed research program.

More specifically, we envision a one-day workshop that welcomes submissions from post-graduate students working within all (sub-)disciplines of international and European studies and whose work contains an ideational and/or discursive element and raises (not exclusively) questions like:

1. How can we clearly define ideational variables?
2. How can we conceptualise the links between ideas and policy outcomes?
3. Who are the main actors involved in ideational analysis?
4. Which are the diffusion mechanisms at work in ideational analysis?

What are the prospects for epistemological bridge-building with the ›mainstream‹ and the appropriate methodology for studying ideas?

## Workshop Schedule

Saturday, June 1, 2003

10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:30 **Panel 1: Introduction and Overview: Reflections on the Ideational Turn**

**Andreas Gofas** (Univ. of Warwick, UK): Between the Scylla of ›Ontological Terrorism‹ and the Charybdis of ›Methodological Opportunism‹: Reflections on the Ideational Turn

**Lia Potec** (Central European Univ., Hungary): On the Ontology and Epistemology of the Ideational

**Matthias Leonhard Maier** (European Univ. Inst., Italy): Discourse and Cognition as Action and as Structure: A Conceptual Framework for the Analysis of Ideas in Politics

**George Welton** (Univ. of Aberystwyth, UK): The Problems of Cultural Selection in a Socially Constructed World

Discussant: **Prof. Colin Hay** (Birmingham Univ.)

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **Panel 2: Ideas, Discourses and Policy Outcomes: Untying the Knot**

**Lars Tønder** (Johns Hopkins Univ., USA): Ideational Analysis and the Question of Causality

**Mary Martin** (Pembroke College, Cambridge, UK): Ideas, Power and Policy: A Complex Relationship

**David Hudson** (Univ. of Birmingham, UK): Rogue Traders: The Discursive Contestation of Financial Normality and Knowledge

**Dóra Piroška** (Central European Univ., Hungary): Exploring ideational factors in the Hungarian and Slovenian banking sector policy formation since transition

Discussant: **Dr. Diane Stone** (Univ. of Warwick)

15:15 Coffee Break

15:45 **Panel 3: Ideas, Discourses and Diffusion Mechanisms: Bringing Rigour to Ideational Analysis**

**Jim Dratwa** (Harvard Univ., USA; École des Mines de Paris, France; Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique; Univ. Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium): From the European Commission to the Construction of our Common World: Communicating the Precautionary Principle

**Stella Ladi** (Leeds Metropolitan Univ., UK): The Role of Discourse in a Structure and Agency Relationship: The Case of Knowledge Institutions in Processes of Policy Change

**Andreas Antoniadis** (London School of Economics, UK): Communicating Discourses: The ›Public‹ through the ›Hegemonic‹ and the ›Hegemonic‹ through the ›Public‹

Discussant: **Dr. Ben Rosamond** (Univ. of Warwick).

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