

New International Histories of Decolonisation and the UN

14th June 2023, Sala Belvedere, Villa Schifanoia (hybrid)

This workshop will explore new research into international histories of decolonisation, with a focus on the United Nations. Bringing together academics and experts on both topics, this workshop will explore the various ways in which the UN facilitated and hindered decolonisation in the mid-twentieth century and demonstrate how colonial and neo-colonial behaviours persist in present times.

The workshop will consist of two panel discussions. Each session will last for two hours, with the invited academics giving 20 minute presentations followed by an hour for questions.

The first discussion will focus on three specific UN structures to better understand how different, often peripheral parts of the UN, dealt with decolonisation campaigns in the past. Those include UN Peacekeeping Missions, the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on Decolonisation/24. The second panel will hear cases of ongoing colonisation, including the Rwenzuru Kingdom in western Uganda, West Papua and Palestine. This discussion will explore the international dimensions of decolonisation in the present, captivating not only historians but researchers and experts across the EUI who are interested in the UN from a variety of perspectives.

Please register for pre-circulated papers.

PROGRAMME

10:00 Introduction and Welcome by the Diplomatic and International History Working Group

10:30-12:30 Panel Discussion 1, Chaired by Siobhán Amelia Smith (HEC, EUI)

Decolonisation in peripheral UN spaces

Margot Tudor (University of Exeter)

Alessia Tortolini (The Hague at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs of Leiden University)

Alanna O'Malley (Leiden University)

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:30 Panel Discussion 2, Chaired by Sebastian von Massow (LAW, EUI)

Colonial continuities at the UN

Yusra Abdullahi (Leiden University)

Emma Kluge (Max Weber Fellow, EUI)

Anne Irfan (University College London)

15:30-16:00 Concluding discussion with remarks from **Glenda Sluga**, Professor of International History and Capitalism

16:00-17:00 Cocktail reception at Villa Schifanoia



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