Research Seminar


By: Dr Ian Hall, Senior Lecturer, IBAS, Griffith University

Europeans may well have been trying to ‘govern’ the globe since at least the end of the fifteenth century, but the concept of ‘global governance’ is a relatively new one. Referring to what James Rosenau called the ‘system of rule’ by which transnational issues are addressed by a range of institutions, agencies, regimes, and processes – some formal and some less so, some directed by states and some less controlled – global governance is argued to have emerged as a response to the bundle of phenomena known as ‘globalisation’. Quite how they emerged, why, and at whose hands, however, remain open questions.

This paper – part of a wider collaborative project on ‘Interpreting Global Governance’ – tries to disentangle the origins of global governance in the post-war era. It attempts to trace the ways in which various strands of internationalist, realist, federalist, and functionalist thinking, as well as planning theory, shaped the development of the various elements of the global ‘system of rule’. It argues that global governance is best understood not as a natural response to ‘globalisation’ or as an attempt to perpetuate Western hegemony into the post-colonial era, but rather as the product of a much more complex and protracted struggle among policy-makers, bureaucrats, and activists over the most effective means to govern global politics.

Ian Hall’s research interests lie in normative international theory and the intellectual history of international relations. He is currently writing a book on the responses of British intellectuals’ to post-war decline as well as working on a collaborative project on ‘Interpreting Global Governance’.

→ Thursday 2 April 2009
→ N16 Room 1.22
→ Nathan campus
→ 12.30 -1.50pm

To RSVP, please contact Kathy Bailey on (07) 3735 3730 or kathy.bailey@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Tuesday 31 March 2009