

Hierarchy in International Relations?

Sponsored by
Centre for Global Constitutionalism
And
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In his 2009 book, *Hierarchy in International Relations*, David Lake argues that the international order is not anarchic as many scholars of international affairs assume.¹ Rather it has always been structured around versions of hierarchy in which powerful states govern the international order as a whole. In the current order the United States serves this role through the provision of goods to states in areas of economics and defence. Lake provides empirical evidence for this claim in this book, which he further develops in his presidential speech to the International Studies Association in 2009.²

In this one day workshop, participants will explore this core argument from two perspectives: formal institutions of legal hierarchy, such as the United Nations; and contestation of this order from the perspective of subordinate polities. These two perspectives provide different critical perspectives on Lake's claims and on the wider question of whether or not an international hierarchy is possible or normatively desirable.

Schedule:

All sessions will be held in the Senate Room, St Mary's Quad.

- 9:00-9:30 Introduction and welcome
- 9:30-11:00: Hierarchy and International Institutions
 - Professor William Walker
 - Dr Michelle Burgis
 - Mr Radim Dragomaca
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee
- 11:30-1:00 Hierarchy and International Society
 - Professor Andrew Williams
 - Professor Nicholas Rengger
 - Mr Mohammed Ashfaq
- 1:00-2:00 Lunch
- 2:00-3:30 Hierarchy in the Periphery
 - Dr Gurchethen Sanghera
 - Professor Ali Ansari
 - Dr Rashmi Singh
- 3:30-4:00 Coffee
- 4:00-5:00 Reply by Lake

¹ David Lake, *Hierarchy in International Relations* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009).

² David Lake, "Rightful Rules Authority, Order, and the Foundations of Global Governance" *International Studies Quarterly* 53, 3 (2010): 587-613. See also David Lake, "Making America Safe for the World: Multilateralism and the Rehabilitation of US Authority" *Global Governance* 16, 4 (2010): 471-484.