

Call for Contributions – International Studies Association Conference 2020 (Honolulu, Hawaii)

Security and the Psy Sciences - a dangerous affair?

The psy disciplines have contributed significantly to knowledge production and analysis in IR. For instance, early 20th century “racial” psychiatry made visible colonized populations vis-à-vis white European populations. During the same period, eugenic psychiatry worked transnationally to identify and eliminate the threat posed by “deficient” hereditary material to strengthen national populations. Through behavioral psychology, IR came to view agents as self-interested, rational beings seeking out ways to maximize advantage while minimizing risk. More recently, the psy disciplines have brought trauma into view, analyzing it in conjunction with the construction of cultural memory and national identity. The psy disciplines have also furnished IR with one of the most widely researched analytic concepts, resilience. This panel will investigate the different ways in which the psy disciplines have shaped IR disciplinary knowledge, forms of political intervention and statecraft across different geographical sites and historical temporalities

The panel invites submissions on the following topics:

- How have historical formations of psy disciplinary knowledge informed IR theories and methodologies?
- What sort of governance and forms of statecraft are implied when IR deploys the concept of ‘resilience’?
- Which sites and methodologies have come into view for IR from the psy disciplines beyond the concepts of trauma and resilience?
- How can different psy practices disrupt power structures within the psy complex and render visible alternative practices of dealing with pain and suffering?

Abstracts: no more than 200 words; Deadline: June 30th (ISA has mobility funds – more information can be found on the website <https://www.isanet.org/Conferences/Honolulu-2020>)

Submit abstract to: B.A.Gruber@rug.nl

Panel Chair: Alison Howell

Alison Howell is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Newark, where she is also an affiliate member of Women's and Gender Studies, the Division of Global Affairs, and Global Urban Studies. She previously held research fellowships at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) and in Politics, both at the University of Manchester, as well as a Fulbright at Brown University and SUNY. She is an Associate Editor of the Journal *Critical Military Studies*, an editorial board member of *Critical Studies on Security and International Political Sociology*, and a member of the *Costs of War* project.

Using feminist, critical race, and disability studies approaches, Dr. Howell has written on topics relating to the international relations of medicine, technoscience, security and warfare. Her first book, *Madness in International Relations* examined the role of psychology in global security practices. Her work has also been published in journals such as the *Review of International Studies*, *Security Dialogue*, *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, *Millennium: Journal of*

International Studies; the International Feminist Journal of Politics, the Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, Studies in Social Justice, and International Political Sociology.