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School of Social Sciences

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences



Public Policy and Global Affairs (PPGA)
cordially invites you to the following seminar

**Alternative ‘histories’ of the origins of
International Relations: An account from the
Global South**

by
Prof Peter Vale

Date: Thursday, 14 March 2019

Time: 14:30pm

Venue: HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)

Biography

Peter Vale is Professor of Humanities at the University of Johannesburg, and Director of JIAS. He holds BA and BA (Honours) degrees from Wits University, and an MA and PhD from the University of Leicester. He previously worked as Director of Research at the South African Institute of International Affairs; Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, where he was also Nelson Mandela Professor of Politics; co-Director (with Rob Davies) of the Centre for Southern African Studies at the University of the Western Cape; and, later, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs at the same university. In 2013, he delivered the EH Carr Memorial Lecture at Aberystwyth University, Wales, the most prestigious lecture in the field of International Relations.

He has served as UNESCO Professor of African Studies at Utrecht University; Professor of Politics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia; and Visiting Professor at the University of Bergen, Norway.

Prof Vale’s research interests include social thought, intellectual traditions in South Africa, the future and politics of higher education, and the origins of international relations in South Africa, and he has published extensively in all these fields. He has received the International Medal of the University of Utrecht, and Rhodes University’s Distinguished Senior Research Award. His book *Security and Politics in South Africa: The Regional Dimension* (University of Cape Town Press, 2004) received the Vice-Chancellor’s Book Award at Rhodes University.

Abstract

The year, Twenty-Nineteen, marks the Centenary of the formal founding of the academic discipline on International Relations at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. However, critical voices and, more recently, calls for the decolonisation of western-centred knowledge have questioned the epistemological ‘big bang’ of the Aberystwyth account. Drawing on an account of pre-figurative IR in South Africa, which was published in the journal *Millennium* in 2017, the seminar will explore the implications of ‘alternative’ histories for the discipline.

All are welcome!
Click [here](#) or scan QR code to register!

