

# GLOBAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM ANNUAL MEETING, 20-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

LOCATION: DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL STUDIES, ROOM 415,  
BUILDING 1453

ALL MEETINGS ON CAMPUS TAKE PLACE IN THE SAME ROOM:  
1453/415.

WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

Arrival

6pm – Welcome and Buffet dinner

Zoom: <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/61044930836>

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Zoom: <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/68599690200>

9am: *Coffee and Gathering*

9.30 – 11am: **From Global to Planetary Governance? Humanist Perspectives**

Lecture by Dominic Sachsenmaier

*Scholars from the humanities have engaged in discussions on a new perspective on the global, the “planetary perspective”, making “the planetary” a rich, new concept. In particular, the role of history and the humanities are discussed by Dominic, who pledges for the need of a reinvigorated look at the humanities, their role and contribution to our contemporary experience. What, then, are “Planetary Humanities”?*

Followed by a commentary from Hagen Schulz-Forberg and discussion.

*Coffee*

11.30am – 1pm: **Transformations of American Hegemony**

Lecture by Bastiaan van Apeldoorn

*Since the turn of the century, the US has been at war globally, though its rearmament had already begun during the last half of the 1990s – almost a decade after the collapse of the country’s main geopolitical rival. Yet the so-called “unipolar” organization of geopolitics which defined the post-Cold War period has in recent years been called into question, not least by military planners in Washington who themselves warn of the rise of peer competitors in Eurasia. This panel will analyze the bipartisan nature of American foreign policy since the 1990s, the changing composition of the interest groups who drive it, and the new geopolitical and political-economic context which has emerged over the recent period, as articulated by the 2018 US National Defense Strategy.*

Followed by a commentary from Hagen Schulz-Forberg and Vladimir Pacheco Cueva and discussion.

*Lunch*

2.30 – 4pm: **Histories of Technocracy: Critical Perspectives on Governance**

Lecture by Anders Esmark

*Official deference to experts is a prominent feature of global politics. In some instances, it expresses itself as a form of de facto or even de jure emergency rule by academic specialists. Such forms of technocratic management have even been welcomed by some, in what amounts to a challenge to the principles of democratic self-determination. But who exactly benefits from technocratic fixes to contemporary social crises? Which organizations back it, and what is the history and origin of technocracy as an organized movement and mode of politics? This panel will explore these questions in the context of parallel contemporary efforts to respond to the crisis of the inter-war years, when technocracy first emerged formally. And it will consider the meaning and historical development of technocracy in relation to popular sovereignty.*

Followed by a presentation and comment from Joshua Rahtz on “Technocracy and the Social Question”.

*Coffee*

4.30 – 5.30: **The Department of Global Studies at Aarhus University**

Presentation of Department by Uwe Skoda, Head of Department

Followed by open discussion

6.30pm      *Dinner*

## FRIDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

Zoom: <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/64630678474>

For the panels on this day, many of you have indicated an interest in participating on the panel. We will hold these sessions as open discussion sessions. Each panelist will have some minutes to present arguments/talking points at the beginning of the panel.

9am: *Coffee and gathering*

9.30 – 11am: **Whither Global Studies? Where is the field today?**

Arguably, global studies has achieved a number of successes in the last decade. Centers of Global Studies have emerged and established themselves. From BA to PhD level, curricula have been developed and applied. What are the intellectual challenges for the field today?

*Coffee break*

11.30-1pm: **Whither the Global Studies Consortium?**

As a consortium, we have had a decade of success and growth – up until the Corona crisis cut us off from physical meetings. Now we meet for the first time again, following a hiatus and an online event last year. But what do we as a consortium achieve in the decade to come? Where do we want to move? Can we finally tackle the North/South divide also among the universities who are our partners and not only mention it as a critical point in our curricula? Arguably, African and Latin American universities are under-represented. And what is the impact of the new geopolitical reality on our consortium? Which role do we wish to play in the field of education and research ?

*Lunch*

2.30-4pm: PhD Workshop

- Karina Khasnulina, “City of Red Tractors: Transnational Modernity and Urban Space in the Early PRC”
- Frederik Hyttel Vestergaard, “The Political Construction of Sustainability in the European Union and Global Institutions”
- Eugene Riordan, To be announced.

Discussed in full plenum.

*Coffee*

4.30 – 6pm: Global Studies Consortium Administrative Meeting of the Steering Committee

We will pick up on the points elaborated in the earlier session and aim at coming up with a clear vision and organization of the consortium. Questions include: How do we organize the steering committee? How do we assign membership and responsibilities? Is it maybe a good idea to have a more steady steering committee rather than a changing of hats every year? What are our goals as a consortium and what are our obstacles? How can we collaborate more and how can we be a better organization?

6pm        *Dinner*

## SATURDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

10am – Meeting at Hotel WakeUp Aarhus and Walk through town to “The Old City/Den Gamle By” – open air museum.

Link: <https://dengamleby.dk>

12.30pm – *Lunch at Restaurant Gæstgivergården*

**Departure**

## PARTICIPANTS

Bastiaan van Apeldoorn, Free University of Amsterdam

Vladimir Pacheco Cueva, Aarhus University

Veronica Dristas, University of Pittsburgh

Evelyn Davidheiser Kindley, University of Minnesota

Anders Esmark, University of Copenhagen

Karina Khasnulina, Leipzig University

Steffi Marung, Univeristy of Leipzig

Gabriel Garcia Ochoa, Monash University, Melbourne

Lara Putnam, University of Pittsburgh

Joshua Rahtz, Aarhus University

Eugene Riordan, University of California Santa Barbara

Dominic Sachsenmaier, University of Göttingen

Hagen Schulz-Forberg, Aarhus University

Uwe Skoda, Aarhus University

Krzysztof Sliwinski, Hong Kong Baptist University

Donna Tonini, Univeristy of Illinois Urbana -Champaign

Frederik Hyttel Vestergaard, Aarhus University

Steen Witt, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Xiaoxiao,Xie, Shanghai University