



## **The Making of Modern International Realm: economy and international political theory from T. Hobbes to J. Bentham**

European School of Political and Social Sciences  
Catholic University of Lille (France)  
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Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) are usually portrayed as two central philosophers of the British modern political and legal thought. With David Armitage's *Foundations of Modern International Thought*<sup>[1]</sup>, they also appear as leading figures in the making of the modern international political thought. In Armitage's intellectual history, the couple "Hobbes-Bentham" delimits chronologically the formation period of the modern international political thought (1629-1832). In his attempt to justify his assumption, Armitage explains that he heavily relies on "a series of prior aetiological narratives, mostly within the disciplines of international law and International relations, had also found them there."<sup>[2]</sup> These narratives have led to the assumption that the divide between the internal and the external, the domestic and the foreign have participated to the foundations of modern international thought during that period. This account is a well-received description of modern international thought where Hobbes and Bentham both incarnate major figures in conducting central developments in modern international thought.

However, this account tends to undermine the changes that occurred in the making of the international realm both conceptually and historically. The attempt of this workshop is to focus on the British tradition from Hobbes to Bentham (including John Locke, David Hume, Adam Smith) in order to understand, through the articulation between economy and political theory, its unique contribution to modern international thought. Indeed, what sort of relations, developments, connections, continuities and ruptures take place in the fields of political theory, economy and international theory in the time period that stretches between intellectually active periods of Thomas Hobbes (from 1629 onwards) and Jeremy Bentham (1832)? We ask, for example, what sort of relations can we see between the conceptualizations of property rights and free markets? Is there a continuity on the conceptualization of sovereign state, war, colonization and expansion? How do they think about economic interactions and interdependence in the aftermath of the birth of the Westphalian world?

Abstract may address one or more of the following areas. Contributions which do not fall under these categories – but nevertheless address the theme of the conference – are also welcome:

## **First axis: proto-theories of globalization in modern international thought**

International commerce and competition in David Hume, Adam Smith and Jeremy Bentham  
Jealousies, glory, vanity in David Hume, Adam Smith, Jeremy Bentham  
Rich countries and Poor Countries economic exchange in David Hume, Adam Smith, Jeremy Bentham  
International private companies  
International commerce, peace and war  
International commerce, national bankruptcy  
International law, international treaties, commercial treaties  
Distance, global trade, local economy, imperial conquests  
Colonies  
Critics of empire  
Critics of mercantilism

## **Second axis: Ruptures or continuity between early modern (Hobbes, Locke) & modern international thought (Hume, Smith, Bentham)?**

Domestic economy and international economy  
Work, labour, population control, colony settlement, property  
property rights, land, market regulation, law  
Taxes policy, bounties, balance of trade, controlling foreign trade and money  
Economic theories, modern political economy, commerce  
State theories, liberal internationalism, cosmopolitanism  
Banks, paper-money, financial plans and policies  
Free trade, freedom of movement, borders  
international theory, laws of nations, international law

Paper proposals of maximum 800 words should be sent by **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020** to: [benjamin.bourcier@univ-catholille.fr](mailto:benjamin.bourcier@univ-catholille.fr)  
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### **Keynote speaker:**

David Lieberman is James W. and Isabel Coffroth Professor of Jurisprudence at the Berkeley Law Faculty, University of California.

Each paper will be attributed 45 minutes. The format will be 30 minutes presentation followed by 15 minutes of questions and discussion.

The organizers of the workshop cannot provide financial travel support for speakers. For the participants, the organizers will provide catering, restaurant and possible financial support (hostel) for the two days of the conference.

### **ORGANIZERS:**

Benjamin Bourcier, Associate Professor in Moral and Political Philosophy, ESPOL, Université Catholique de Lille (France).

Mikko Jakonen, Adjunct Professor, Senior Lecturer in Cultural Policy, University of Jyväskylä (Finland)

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