



Navigating a Multi-Polar World: Challenges and Opportunities

2010 GPPN Student Conference: Call for Abstracts

As one of the key events of the Global Public Policy Network (GPPN), this annual GPPN student conference aims to bring together leading scholars and public policy students from academic institutions spanning the US, Europe, and Asia to discuss and identify solutions to pressing issues around the world.

1. Conference Theme:

Power, in its various forms, is shifting on the world stage. Countries such as China, India and Brazil are gaining momentum and projecting their newfound economic prowess beyond their shores, influencing both developed and developing countries. Regional arms races loom on Asia's horizons. The European Union gains momentum and strength as more and more states clamor to join its ranks.

The 2010 GPPN student conference, "**Navigating a Multi-Polar World: Challenges and Opportunities**" will reflect on the complex issues surrounding this phenomenon in the 21st century following the global financial crisis. As traditional foundations of order are being challenged, new sources of power are emerging, leading to new policy problems and governance structures. In this conference, we aim to address the emergence of new economic powers, the growth of non-state actors in international relations and development, and the growth of alternative energy sources. The conference will explore these issues from a unique global perspective with leading scholars, professionals, and students spanning various policy realms and expertise. Students are called to submit abstracts aligned with the themes and goals of the conference.

2. Guidelines for Submission:

While contributions can represent a variety of viewpoints, perspectives, and approaches, works that address persistent policy issues or provide new approaches and solutions are particularly welcome. Conceptual papers, research papers presenting quantitative and /or qualitative data, as well as case studies and practitioner contributions are invited. Several research suggestions and topics that may be relevant are detailed below, although abstracts that address other appropriate themes of shifting global power are also welcome.

3. Topics:

a) *Economic policies*: The emergence of new economic powerhouses in China, India, and Brazil are lifting millions out of poverty; but they are also symptomatic of wider economic imbalances. They also beg questions relating to global economic governance with the emerging (G20), revised trade policies, and regional blocs.

b) Sustainability and Energy policies: The threat of climate change and the “green new deal” together with technical improvements have modified the geopolitical landscape of energy and food security. At the same time, traditional energy producers have re-asserted themselves on the world stage. Combined, these factors contribute to a greater diffusion of power, as demonstrated in the Copenhagen negotiations. How will emerging power dynamics affect sustainable development and energy policies?

c) Development policies: Development in a multi-polar world has evolved rapidly. On the one hand, the rise of non-conventional donors has raised the spectre of neo-colonialism. On the other, the proliferation of large NGOs and foundations has radically altered the practice and goals of development across the world. State-owned enterprises with different agendas have also entered the development arena. What are the challenges and opportunities?

d) Social and Urban policies: Government and management of our cities are currently facing very new challenges. Given the growing inequalities across and within countries as a result of the new multi-polarism, policies are constantly adapting to a new set of circumstances. Traditional social and urban policies are being challenged by alternative emerging models. How this affects the way people migrate, live and organize themselves will be explored.

e) Global Governance and Security policies: Global governance and security are undergoing vast changes with the shifting of power. Multi-lateral instruments as well as transnational issues are being affected by new opportunities and challenges. Has this multi-polar world lead to a trend of governance and security liberalism? Should reforms be expedited to reflect new dynamics?

The topics above are indicative of the breadth of the debate. Some policy issues are bound to be cross-cutting and cover across all four areas. Any abstract, broad or specific, will be considered if it relates to the over-arching theme of the conference.

4. Abstract and Paper Submission and Review Process:

Authors who wish to present their papers at the conference should electronically submit an abstract (two-pages maximum, double-spaced, Times New Roman font) by 23.59 P.M. **October 1st 2010** (New York time) to gppn2010@gmail.com.

Respective school administrations will be notified of recommended abstracts by October 5, 2010. Selected applicants are encouraged to submit a full paper due November 15, 2010 for consideration by partner journals.