

**Proposal for BISA working group:  
Resilience Working Group**

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The purpose of this working group is to facilitate academic work which seeks to investigate resilience as a conceptual framework for dealing with developmental, social, economic, security and environmental problems and as an evolving set of policy practices. Resilience is an increasingly central concept informing policy practices in international relations, particularly in the fields of development and security, but exceeds disciplinary emplacement. As such, this working group will draw together academic expertise from across disciplines concerned with international studies, including international sociology, political theory, development studies, security studies, anthropology, geography and law.

The discourse of resilience is centred on the vulnerability of human subjects to external changes and effects, from global warming to terrorism and financial crisis. It emphasises the role of human agency in constituting these threats, risks and hazard, so as to articulate the human as a sphere for policy intervention within a framework of adaptation.

This working group seeks to gather academics concerned with drawing out and engaging with the assumptions informing resilience approaches and practices and, in so doing, create an inter-disciplinary space for contemporary international social theorising.

Considering the emergent significance of resilience as a core framing for international policy-making, and the high level of postgraduate, research funder and policy-making interest, it is crucial that a working group gathers those critically engaged with the topic. We envisage that the group will be active in

organizing panels at key conferences, including those organized by BISA, ESRC, ISA and WISC as well as organizing our own workshops and symposia. Substantial interest from policy-makers and think tanks in the fields of development and security suggests that a Resilience working group could provide useful links between policy-makers and funding bodies and the developing post-graduate and junior academic communities working in this area, as well as collaborating closely with other BISA working groups working in related fields.

The themes connected to resilience which we are interested in pursuing include:

Communities of resilience	Economic resilience
Environmental resilience	Social resilience
Resilience and human agency	The politics of adaptation
Biopolitics of resilience	Resilience and neoliberalism
Resilience and post-colonial approaches	Genealogies of resilience
Resisting technologies of resilience	Ecologies of resilience
Post-interventionist policy-frameworks	Resilience and the (post)political
Resilience and vulnerability	Resilience and international security
Resilience and the (post)human	Engineering resilience
Resilience and the human sciences	Privatising resilience
The politics of prevention	Empowerment and capability-building
Catastrophic change, hazards and risk	Globalisation and resilience
Behaviouralist approaches to resilience	