

**‘Everyday Insecurities and Vulnerabilities’**  
**Workshop sponsored by the Glasgow Global Security Network**  
**University of Glasgow**  
**April 30 – May 1, 2015**

**Confirmed Speakers: Nick Vaughan-Williams (University of Warwick); Brent J. Steele (University of Utah)**

Organisers: Ty Solomon (Glasgow) and Katherine Allison (Glasgow)

International Relations (IR) theory has traditionally analysed security and threats by assuming the state is the primary referent of security and thus should be scholars’ primary unit of analysis. The study of security has long neglected everyday insecurities of *people* as secondary to external threats posed to states. Broader understandings of security which are attentive to relations between different units of analysis can help us explore how peoples’ insecurity is often a response to the security practices of the state. This insecurity is thus concealed if we assume a natural fit between the security of the state and of different social groups and individuals living within those boundaries. A turn to exploring everyday aspects of insecurity suggests not only that state-centric lenses are inadequate in capturing the causes and consequences of insecurity for many people. It also raises the possibility that appropriate and effective means of negotiating and dealing with insecurities are overlooked by such lenses. Many people experience insecurities and vulnerabilities which do not threaten the state and many of which are a result of the state’s drive to secure itself. The gendered, racialised, and religious structures that maintain hierarchies that privilege some over others often shade into classed and economic arrangements that foster more vulnerability for many people than do ‘national security threats.’ War and political violence more broadly is not only the strategic game of states and militaries, but is a lived, embodied, emotional, and spatial experience for soldiers, civilians, medical workers, journalists, protesters, families, and many others. Similarly, the lived experiences of economic insecurity threaten the life chances of many more than conflict often does. The economic, social, political, gendered, nutritional, and generational effects of poverty at the everyday level reflect entrenched structures of insecurity-inducing forces which usually escape conventional lenses of global security.

The one and a half day workshop seeks to explore further the potentials and possibilities opened up by the emerging turn to the ‘everyday’ in IR. Recognising the burgeoning work in IR and across the social sciences on *inter alia* emotions, affects, practices, the body, aesthetics, discourse, autoethnography, and feminist perspectives, we invite contributions that attend to the interweaving of the ‘international’ and the ‘everyday’. The workshop invites researchers, practitioners and activists across a variety of disciplines and issue areas to engage in creative and critical dialogue about the myriad relationships between these realms, and what taking ‘the everyday’ seriously may require of theory, method, the researcher, and political practice more broadly.

Potential research questions, topics and themes:

- How do we theorize/conceptualize ‘the everyday’ in relation to ‘the international’? How might conventional disciplinary categories of ‘security’ and ‘economy’ be challenged, deconstructed, and/or reconfigured by ‘the everyday’? What alternative spaces may be opened up?
- What methods/methodologies are appropriate for exploring the relationship(s) between ‘the international’ and ‘the everyday’?
- How should we theorise and enact the relationship between academia and practice in shifting security to the everyday? Who/what counts as an ‘authentic’ voice of the everyday? How do everyday voices become heard? How might theorisations of the everyday enable political change?

- How do we connect the micropolitics of the everyday to the macropolitics of the international?
- How might emotional and affective practices, orientations, and dispositions at the everyday level enact, challenge, disrupt, or resist structures of ‘the international’?
- How do spatialities and temporalities of ‘the everyday’ challenge, inform, or maintain dominant political and academic discourses of ‘the international’?

\*\*We are able to offer some financial assistance to a limited number of participants.\*\*

**Deadline for abstract submission is Friday, February 27, 2015.** Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words by email to Ty Solomon ([ty.solomon@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:ty.solomon@glasgow.ac.uk)) and Katherine Allison ([katherine.allison@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.allison@glasgow.ac.uk)). Please include name, affiliation, and contact details. Successful applicants will be notified in early March 2015.