

Small States in the International Political Economy: What role for the Commonwealth? 13 November 2009, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

Workshop organizer: Dr Amrita Narlikar*

Support and advocacy for the cause of small states forms a major part of the Commonwealth's research and policy agenda. A rich repertoire of literature exists on exactly how and why the Commonwealth took up this responsibility. Complementing this literature are the writings that focus on the comparative foreign policies of small states. But scholarship on the problems facing small states as they negotiate their way through the international political economy, and ways in which they have tried to (or could try to) overcome them, is limited, as are writings on the advantages of smallness in the international political economy. Relevant literature has grown even more scarce in recent years as many scholars have focused on the rising power of the BRICs, often with an accompanying neglect of the new opportunities and pressures that globalization generates for small states. In this one-day workshop, we aim to address this gap in the literature, and also generate findings that will have direct relevance for policy-makers in small states of the Commonwealth, and also other international organizations and states that seek to assist them.

Sessions and Presenters

Welcome and Introduction (9:15-9.30am): Amrita Narlikar (Cambridge)

Session I

9:30am-11am

The Political Economy of Small States

Chaired by: James Mayall (Cambridge)

Topic 1: The Concept of Small States in International Political Economy

Presenter: Paul Sutton (London Metropolitan University)

Topic 2: Challenges and Opportunities for Small States

Presenter: Donna Lee (University of Birmingham)

Topic 3: Small States and the Commonwealth

Presenter: Cyrus Rustomjee (Commonwealth Secretariat)

Session II

11:30am-1pm

Small States and the International Trading System

Chaired by Amrita Narlikar (Cambridge)

Topic 1: GSP and Small States

Presenter: Lorand Bartels (Cambridge)

Topic 2: Small States, WTO, and Aid for Trade

Presenter: Shishir Priyadarshi (WTO, Geneva)

Topic 3: Small states in the EPAs negotiations

Presenter: Brendan Vickers (IGD, Pretoria)

Session III

2pm-3:30pm

Small States and the International Financial System

Chaired by Andrew Gamble (Cambridge)

Topic 1: Offshore Banking and Tax Havens in Small States

Presenter: Mark Hampton (University of Kent)

Topic 2: Small states, Sovereign Creditworthiness, and the IMF

Presenter: Andre Bloom (University of Birmingham)

Topic 3: Global anti-money laundering standards and small states: Protecting society from dangerous money

Presenter: William Vleck

Session IV

4pm-5.30pm

Small States and Security

Chaired by Richard Bourne (CPSU)

Topic 1: Small States, Development, and Perforated Sovereignities

Presenter: Godfrey Baldacchino (University of Prince Edward Island and University of Malta)

Topic 2: Environmental Security for Small States

Presenter: Richard Benwell (Cambridge)

Topic 3: Post Conflict and Legal Reconstruction in Small States

Presenter: Ian Ralby (Cambridge)

* Those wishing to attend the workshop are welcome to get in touch with Dr Amrita Narlikar (an283@cam.ac.uk) or Mr Dan Kim (djdk2@cam.ac.uk).