



# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, #2, August 2022



We have not planned to send out another newsletter this soon, but we have too much good news not to share. Having been established only some five months ago, GIRS has arrived - up and running before the next convention in Montreal in 2023!

We are on the ISA website (<https://www.isanet.org/ISA/Sections/GIRS>) and have been very active. Our thanks for all of the help from the ISA Executive Director Mark Boyer and his team.

Our program chairs have managed to create a large number of panels and roundtables for the next convention under the GIRS flag. Some have been accepted as Convention theme events. The official news about the acceptances of submissions will be advised formally by the ISA HQ soon.

In addition to its annual convention, the ISA HQ has encouraged submissions for virtual online events <https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Virtual-Programs/Events>. We got to work.

Against the backdrop of a changing world, the likes of which we haven't seen since World War II, the GIRS creation has been very timely. The emerging world arrangement will undoubtedly be based on recognizing that liberal values are not the only "universal" values in town and that other cosmological traditions need to be considered. GIRS's raison d'etre is precisely that: to provide a platform for a dialogue even with partners and ideologies with whom we do not share sympathies or values. There is much talk about the need for dialogue, in Amitav Acharya's multiplex world. (We reprint here on p.4 a section from our statement to the ISA explaining the purpose of GIRS).

Co-sponsored with CEEISA we devised three online series: I. "GIRS situation room," II. "Office hours with GIRS professors" and III. "Around the world with GIRS": the first installments of the three series are offered on **September 7 and 21, October 12, and 31**. Others might follow.

- A. GIRS virtual online events now: in September, October, and in November! Mark your calendar!
- B. The first, the inaugural GIRS distinguished scholar awarded!
- C. Other news – a reminder - the best book award nominations are due on August 31!! – GIRS is on Facebook and Twitter
- D. Any suggestions for GIRS virtual events?

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**CEEISA**  
CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION



## A. GIRS online events this semester!

<p><b>I. GIRS “SITUATION ROOM”: 1. THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR</b>  <b>Wednesday September 7 2022</b>  <b>10am EST</b></p>  <p><b>SITUATION ROOM</b></p>	<p>It has been widely claimed that mainstream IR studies failed to satisfactorily explain, much less predict, the end of the Cold War and the contours of the post-Cold War world now in the process of unforeseen and dramatic changes. Have we again missed something in our assessments? In the GIRS “situation room” you can meet scholars of <b>different cultures, religions, and civilizations exploring how different narratives describe and influence major world crises: you will hear not simply one worldview posing as universal, but different narratives on contemporary global crises</b> (other topics to follow - from the Russia-Ukraine war, to the emerging global food, health, and energy crises).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maria Mälksoo, CEEISA President, University of Copenhagen, Denmark</li> <li>- Shiping Tang, Fudan University</li> <li>- Xiaoming Huang, Victoria University, NZ</li> <li>- George Soroka, Harvard University</li> <li>- Thomas Biersteker, Graduate Institute, Geneva</li> <li>- Navnita Chadha Behera, University of Delhi</li> <li>- Seán Molloy, University of Kent, UK</li> <li>- Siba Grovogui, Cornell University</li> <li>- Jocelyne Cesari, Georgetown, Harvard</li> </ul> <p>Hosts: V.Kubalkova University of Miami, Renat Shaykhutdinov, FAU</p>
<p><b>II. GIRS VIRTUAL “OFFICE HOURS” 1. AMITAV ACHARYA</b></p> 	<p>Professor Acharya is the first professor "in" holding office hours  <b>Wednesday September 21, 2022</b>  <b>10am EST</b></p> <p>You are invited to visit the virtual "office hours" with a prominent scholar(s) of GIRS. You can ask any questions on your mind about your research, career, publishing, and networking within the sub-field of Global IR. This is part of a broader strategy initiated by the new Global IR Section (GIRS) to create the next generation of globally-minded and collaborative IR thinkers benefitting from an opportunity to talk with some of the leaders in the field.</p>	<p>Hosts: V.Kubalkova  Renat Shaykhutdinov</p>
<p><b>III. AROUND THE WORLD WITH GIRS: 1. EAST CENTRAL EUROPE</b></p> 	<p><b>Wednesday October 12, 2022</b>  <b>10am EST</b></p> <p>GIRS is committed to taking the insights of different vantage points seriously as they can be found across the world. In this series, we will visit different parts of the world to see whether we see the world in the same way.</p> <p>Let's go to East Central Europe to answer the question <b>“International Relations in Central and Eastern Europe: Still a Marginal Discipline?”</b>  <b>Other destinations and dates TBA</b></p>	<p>Dr. Aliaksei Kazharski, Charles University, Prague, Prof. Petra Roter (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia); Prof. Jozef Batora (Comenius University, Slovak Republic; Webster Vienna Private University, Austria); Prof. Annette Freyberg-Inan (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands); TBC</p> <p>Hosts: V.Kubalkova  Renat Shaykhutdinov</p>
<p><b>II. GIRS VIRTUAL “OFFICE HOURS” 2. TOM BIERSTEKER</b></p> 	<p>Thomas Biersteker is the co-chair of ISA GIRS, a Professor at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, and a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC. He has also taught at Yale University, the University of Southern California, and Brown University. His current research projects are on global governance, sanctions, and the dialectics of world orders, but he will be happy to entertain questions on any other topics!</p>	<p>Hosts: V.Kubalkova  Renat Shaykhutdinov</p>

## B. The inaugural Distinguished Scholar Award goes to Amitav Acharya.

GIR Section of the ISA is pleased to announce the winner of its inaugural 2023 Distinguished Scholar Award, Amitav Acharya <http://amitavacharya.com> for his outstanding scholarship and continuing service to the profession. His pioneering call for global IR during his Presidency of the ISA in 2014 and his recent contributions to our field's scholarship have been inspiring, challenging, rigorous, and intellectually stimulating. His scholarship has had an extraordinary impact on the field, his mentorship of emerging scholars has also been exceptional, as his service to the ISA and the



new GIRS section, including advising and supporting the section co-chairs and serving as a member of our Advisory Group. The Distinguished Scholar Panel at the 2023 ISA Conference will be chaired by the

Distinguished Scholar Committee Chair, Thomas

Biersteker, and Štěpánka Zemanová. On the panel will

be Distinguished Scholar Committee award members, his nominators, and other colleagues, including John Ikenberry and Jack Snyder. The panel participants come from various ethnic, national, religious, geographical, and intellectual backgrounds. Please join us in congratulating

Amitav. We look forward to you being with us to honor him at the DS Panel and section reception at ISA 2023.

## C. Other news:

**Reminder: nominations for the best book award are open until August 31!**

**GIRS is present on both Facebook and Twitter. Start following us here:**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/357948462995992>; [https://twitter.com/GIRS\\_ISA](https://twitter.com/GIRS_ISA)

## D. Any suggestions? Please, let us know.



**A reminder of the stated purpose of GIRS  
(excerpts from our presentation to the ISA  
Governing Council on March 22, 2022, by Thomas  
Biersteker)**

“...For me, Global IR is an attitude, a way of thinking, that entails a self-conscious reflection on the world from different vantage points. It proceeds from the ontological assumption that differences of perspective constitute our subject and that it is important to create spaces for conversations that are resonant with, non-alienating, or at least comprehensible to the lived experiences of individuals from different parts of the world (and located in different strata within them).

These different perspectives may be based on race, on class, on gender, on religion, on civilizational experience, on historical perspective, on national origins, on personal experiences, and more broadly, on the regions of the world from which we come to an ISA convention. We are all parochial in different ways, and I believe that we need deliberately, and self-consciously, to reflect on our different parochialisms – be they geographical, generational, ontological, or epistemological – and make an effort to transcend them.

Global IR requires global participation and representation, but having a person from every continent alone is not sufficient, in my view. We also need also to pursue, to the extent possible, an empathetic understanding of the perspectives of others. We need to celebrate difference, listening

to the views of others, initially accepting them on their own terms, but subsequently interrogating them to try to reach a deeper understanding of the complex and troubled world in which we live. We need to reflect on how we teach our subject and consider how to make our pedagogical role less parochial and more global. We need to work to identify and suggest creative ways to address the challenges of educating the next generation of scholars and practitioners, so they will be able to function effectively in the globalized world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We hope that the new section will be responsive to worldwide demands and trends already present within the discipline.

Efforts to widen the umbrella of international studies still leaves some underrepresented groups. It is important to note that the idea of an ISA GIRS Section actually originated from a gathering of Central European scholars. Postsocialist central European have not historically been regarded as a part of the Global South and hope to find their voice in ISA through the proposed section. The GIRS would also make a special effort to engage racial minorities and native populations in the West and East....”



**ISA 64th Annual Convention, March 15th - 18th, 2023,  
Convention theme: Real Struggles, High Stakes: Cooperation,  
Contention, and Creativity**

<https://www.isanet.org/Conferences/ISA2023>



**See you in Montreal and before that - on the zoom:  
Mark your calendar for GIRS virtual online events this fall and  
register**

**I.1 GIRS “SITUATION ROOM”: 1. THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**

Wednesday September 7, 2022, 10am EST

[https://isanet-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CNNHEgugTJ2miYtPQ8Ve8g](https://isanet-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CNNHEgugTJ2miYtPQ8Ve8g)

**II.1 GIRS VIRTUAL “OFFICE HOURS” 1. AMITAV ACHARYA**

Wednesday September 21, 2022, 10am EST

<https://isanet-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcOmprTsrGdRC9OszvIkDTdZjBRNm4s0x>

**III.1 AROUND THE WORLD WITH GIRS: 1. EAST CENTRAL EUROPE**

Wednesday October 12, 2022 10am EST

[https://isanet-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_18-FuRGIRA2uW-JWNkTAsw](https://isanet-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_18-FuRGIRA2uW-JWNkTAsw)

**II.2 GIRS VIRTUAL “OFFICE HOURS” 2. TOM BIERSTEKER**

Wednesday October 31, 2022 10am EST 10am EST: the link to be advised or  
check on

<https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Virtual-Programs/Events>

