



Non Western Donors & Aid Recipients: Exploring 'hybridity' beyond the liberal peace

**Humanitarian & Conflict Response Institute
University of Manchester
ESRC Seminar
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This seminar was organized in collaboration with Dr. Mandy Turner from Bradford University's Peace Studies department. Day one of the seminar was an open event consisting of three panels. The first panel offered an introduction to the theoretical and conceptual foundations (hybridity and the contradictions of the liberal peace) which were to underpin the day's discussions. Emerging powers, and their understandings' of international development and security assistance were the subject of the second panel, with presentations on the aid regimes of China, Brazil and Venezuela. During the third panel, participants explored the varied experience of aid recipients via presentations on interventions in Bosnia, Turkey and Palestine. All panels included participation of early career scholars or post graduate research students. One of the main debates emerging from the presentations involved the suitability of the term 'donor' when considering the role of the BRIC countries and other countries which see themselves as existing outside the 'traditional' western aid architecture. This debate fed into concerns over the degree of agency held by recipients of aid and intervention, whether that intervention was at the hands of 'traditional donors' or emerging powers. Finally, the utility of the concept of 'hybridity' in understanding the various points of interaction between all actors was assessed and debated.

Day two of the seminar was a closed session in which seminar presenters and interested staff from Manchester and Bradford were invited to discuss the opportunities and options for future research collaboration on the themes of the seminar. Indeed, the seminar offered participants the opportunity to discuss these themes and plans of action in detail—the face to face contact very much facilitated a form of cooperation that simply could not have been created via telephone or email. During this second session, participants discussed the issues and critiques that arose from the previous day's discussion in great depth as they worked towards establishing a clear research agenda and strategy. At the end of the day several points of action were agreed. The first was the creation of an umbrella research network which would cover the various research themes and questions that emerged over the course of the two days—there was an agreement that the research interests discussed and the debates covered were too diverse to lead to one coherent research project but that a wider network of scholars interested in the themes should be created. As such, HCRI and Bradford Peace studies plan to bid for funding to hold a series of research seminars in order to allow for ongoing communication between interested scholars. From this second day it was also agreed that Mandy Turner (Bradford) and Jenny Peterson (Manchester) would formulate a medium term research strategy to explore one of the dominant themes of the seminar—the varied ways in which aid recipients experience interventions from different donors. Other participants, notably Roger Mac Ginty (St. Andrews), expressed their support for the project and have agreed to help with drafts of future research proposals. Cognisant of the need to establish in-country partners, it was agreed that alongside a UK based research network, the collaborators will also apply for various funding streams which would enable substantial international networking. Once these research networks are established, a full research proposal will be written and hopefully submitted for a large research grant in Summer/Autumn 2012.