



**Call for Papers
European Workshops in International Studies, Thessaloniki, 6-9 July 2022**

Patron-client Relations in World Politics

Workshop Convenors:

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Patron-client relations (PCRs) were discovered by International Relations (IR) scholars during the Cold War, but thereafter fell largely into oblivion, even though patron-client relations still permeate world politics today. The Cold War setting is gone, but great power patronhood not. Russia is the patron of Belarus, the United States of Georgia and China of Myanmar. Even more, some Cold War relationships persist, e.g. US-Israel relations. With the East-West rivalry returning, great power competition for clients is back, e.g. on Ukraine.

However, already in the 1980s the state-centered approach of IR scholars neglected that non-state actors can also become patrons or clients, be they international governmental or civil society organizations. This phenomenon appears to have gained prominence. In some regions, such as the MENA, the fragmentation of sovereignty and statehood invited states such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia or Iran to establish new forms of PCRs with all kinds of militia proxies to enlarge their sphere of influence. Further, we also find today non-state patrons of non-state clients, e.g. powerful terrorist groups such as ISIS supporting their local affiliates worldwide. Sometimes we even encounter complex patron-client networks, such as the UK and its Commonwealth relationships.

Obviously, we need to move beyond the Cold War and include non-state perspectives. Only few publications have done that so far, without systematically conceptualizing the phenomenon and delineating it from neighbouring concepts (such as alliances or intervention). Many more, though, study the phenomenon, largely focusing on specific cases, without being aware of the PCR concept. Comparative or theory-driven approaches are rare.

This workshop aims to take stock of the diversity of PCR types and conceptualize the phenomenon in world politics. The convenors will send around a conceptual draft to all participants before the workshop to increase the focus and coherence of the papers. We are mainly interested in the following dimensions:

- Identifying state and non-state patron-client relationships,
- motives for forming, upholding and terminating PCRs,
- types of resources exchanged as well as intensity and duration of exchange,
- balance of dependence, autonomy, and control between patrons and clients, and
- impact on third parties.

Most of the papers are expected to align with five constellations of PCRs: state patrons and state clients; non-state patrons and state clients; state patrons and non-state clients; non-state patrons and non-state clients; and patron-client networks. Due to the limited systematic research on PCRs so far, each paper is expected to focus on at least two of the dimensions presented above. A few papers might also be comparative, conceptual, or methodological in nature. Conceptual papers transferring insights from non-IR disciplines (such as comparative politics or anthropology) on PCRs to our topic are very much welcome. We especially encourage researchers to apply who have already done substantial empirical work on individual cases.

More information on the submission process please find here: <https://eisa-net.org/abstract-submission-22/>