

NEWS – October 17, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As part of our continuous activities to jointly develop a concept of UN Studies, we are not only making progress on staffing the Journal on IO Studies, but are also happy to offer new opportunities for discussion and exchange of ideas: monthly UNSA Dialogues as well as UNSA discussion papers. Moreover, we are pleased to contribute to the commendable efforts of UNSA members and others to build a knowledge-base about teaching the United Nations.

We would like to encourage you to participate in the various activities described below (or to initiate your own), and wish you an enjoyable reading!

Past Events

First UNSA Dialogue on UN Studies concept. As a follow-up to our Bonn seminar, we started our **monthly online conferences** about the conceptual foundations of UN Studies, including innovative views on the UN and how to best teach those views. Our first “UNSA dialogue” took place on October 2 and covered “**Views on the UN from the inside and the outside**”: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/DialogueOctober2>. The next Dialogue is scheduled for Thursday, November 6 (for more information, see below).

Ongoing and Future Activities

Journal of International Organization Studies (JIOS). We have developed the journal's web home and finalized our Call for Papers and other advertising material. Most importantly, the management team is now complete: Editors-in-Chief are John Mathiason (Syracuse University) and Kirsten Haack (Open University); Manuela Scheuermann of the University of Würzburg is the Reviews Editor and Nicola Contessi, Université Laval, is Editor for "Insider's View". The day-to-day management, administration and the publication process will be dealt with by the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University. The representative here is Cory Leonard; students at BYU will be involved in the publication process.

We are still seeking **members for the Editorial Board**. A number of academics and practitioners from a variety of disciplines have already joined the Board, however, we still welcome the contribution of anybody interested in international organizations, particularly the EU and European organizations as well as Latin American organizations.

If you would like to contribute to the development of the journal, join the Editorial Board or submit a paper for the inaugural issue, join the JIOS discussion forum on our wiki portal at: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/ProjectJIOSDiscussionForum>. You can also email Kirsten Haack at jios@unstudies.org.

Colloquium on Innovative UN Teaching Techniques in Vienna, Diplomatic Academy. Michael Platzer is spearheading the planning of this **colloquium, which will take place in Vienna on November 22**, with the support of ACUNS, the Diplomatic Academy, and the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana. The colloquium aims to get a glimpse of who is doing what in the field of teaching on the UN system in Tertiary education in Central, East and Southeast Europe, to identify and discuss innovative initiatives on teaching about the UN system, and to contribute to regional cooperation. For an updated agenda, please visit: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/ProjectViennaColloquium>.

UNSA Meeting in Vienna, Juridicum. Thanks to the support of Michael Platzer and Helmut Prantner, UNSA will be able to hold an **informal meeting on Sunday, November 23**, to discuss its future work regarding developing a joint concept of UN Studies: What defines UN Studies, and why do we need such a field of study? The meeting will also address the challenge to expand UN Studies activities (regionally, topically) including possible new projects in 2009. Please see: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/MeetingInVienna>.

If you cannot attend in person, we will get back to you with a report about the results of both Vienna meetings.

Second UNSA Dialogue. As aforementioned, the next Dialogue is scheduled for **Thursday, November 6**, at 6pm CET / noon EST. This time, we will take a closer look at the question of what distinguishes UN Studies concepts from global governance-related concepts: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/UNSADialogues>.

What's New?

UNSA Discussion Paper No 1. To enhance our UNSA Dialogues, we set up an **informal series of discussion papers**, introducing new ideas that will help us explore new directions in UN research and teaching and develop a concept of UN Studies. The first article, jointly written by Kirsten Haack, Julia and Henrike lines out "Foundations for an Emerging Field of Study" and offers a vision of future UN Studies. You can download this paper at: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/DiscussionPapers>. We look forward to hearing your comments and thoughts - either directly on the wiki portal (at the address given above), by contributing your own discussion paper, or by participating in our Dialogues.

Wiki Portal: Featured Members. Since most of our meetings take place online or by phone, we wish to add faces and personal information to (user) names and voices. To get to learn one of our most recent new members, Welling Hall of Earlham College, please visit: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/FeaturedMembers>.

Last but not least, we would like to inform you about an **international conference about Global E-Learning** (Online Educa), which will take place in Berlin, December 3-5, 2008. For this event and other UN Studies-related conferences, seminars, etc., please refer to our new **UN Studies Calendar** at: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/UNStudiesCalendar>. Please feel free to add any events that you find in the area of UN Studies and IOs.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Henrike and Julia

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