Panel 8.11 Status matters. The role of status and prestige in world politics

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Contemporary IR theory is lively debating the relevance of "status". Scholars have scrutinized status concerns in the definition of actors’ foreign policy and grand strategy. Status has been often studied either as a trigger of war or as a factor of the international order. Overall, the notion is more and more important in theoretical developments that distance from materialistic accounts of international relations and from security-centred approaches to foreign policy. However, despite the richness of contributions, there is still abundant room for further research. In particular, on one hand, a lively debate is still ongoing on the same concept of status and the theoretical schools that most fittingly capture its explanatory power; on the other hand, most studies focussed almost exclusively on the impact of status considerations on war making and diffusion. For these reasons, this panel aims at contributing to these debates in order to enrich our theoretical toolkit and to broaden our substantive knowledge on status. To this aim, the panel welcomes papers from any theoretical and methodological approach. The features of power distribution might make the analysis of status in current global dynamics particularly stimulating. Yet, the panel welcomes papers on any historical period and regional subsystem. A variety of research questions may fall within the scope of the panel, but particularly welcome will be papers dealing with any of the following topics: - the role of status in current IR literature; - reviews of classical works on status; - contributions on status in other social sciences; - the notion of status and its relationship with possibly overlapping concepts, such as “prestige”, “reputation”, “honour”, etc. - material and ideational elements of status and prestige - psychological and emotional roots of the quest for prestige - what can be a status symbol in international politics and how does it change over time? - is prestige a base of power or a national goal? - how do status considerations impact a state’s decision to declare war? - which other states’ behaviours are affected by status considerations? - are status-informed policies a mistake? When status seeking goes wrong?