

## **Section 8– Relazioni Internazionali**

**Chairs: Carla Monteleone, Vittorio Emanuele Parsi**

### **Panel 8.4 Mapping and understanding hierarchical regional orders**

In recent years, within wide-ranging debates on Global IR (Acharya 2014; Acharya 2016; Hurrell 2016; Blaney & Tickner 2017; Acharya & Buzan 2017), the explanatory power of Transatlantic IR approaches has been increasingly challenged when it comes to changing regional security dynamics and their impact on international security. Traditionally, most IR scholars working and paying attention to regional orders, have focused on regional balances of power, the rise and decline of potential hegemony, and the impact of the end of bipolarity on regional orders, all premised on the assumption of anarchy.

We posit that far from observing the lack of authoritative ties among two or more actors, as anarchy would have it, most of global and regional politics takes place in the presence of rules and institutions which create various patterns of super and subordination (Nexon 2009; Donnelly 2009). Some scholars have described the complex nature of existing relations among state and non state actors at the international and domestic level as 'multiple tangled hierarchies', or heterarchies, rejecting the idea of a single ordering principle (Donnelly 2009; Acharya 2014).

This panel starts from the assumption that the existing under-theorization of hierarchy in IR bears significant consequences in the suboptimal understanding of changing regional security dynamics across the globe.

This panel aims first at taking the New Hierarchy Studies' research agenda (Nexon 2009; Zarakol 2017) one step further, by inviting empirical contributions operationalizing different kinds of regional hierarchies. Hierarchical relations can change in degrees of intensity but also qualitatively according to the resources and attributes they are predominantly based upon, be they of a material, in primis military and economic resources, or immaterial/symbolic nature, such as status or their belonging in networks of various kinds. Secondly, the panel aims at bridging the gap between Regional IR and Global IR, on the one hand by systematically applying a refined notion of multiple hierarchies and heterarchies to regional security orders, and on the other by illuminating abstract notions of hierarchies thanks to a comparative analysis of regional orders and changing security dynamics.

Through the examination of changing regional security orders in comparative perspective through the lenses of hierarchy/hierarchies, this panel aims at mapping how power relations across different regional orders have changed and are changing in light of the decline of US hegemony and the rise of regional powers and other global actors.

**Chairs:** Ruth Hanau Santini, Francesco n. Moro

