St Antony’s International Review
Call for Abstracts
International Relations in a Post-factual World

Abstracts of 500 words to be submitted by 1st of April 2017.
Final articles of max. 8000 words to be submitted by 1st August.

In November 2016, the Oxford English Dictionary declared “post-truth” its word of the year. Despite this, little academic debate has been produced on its repercussions on the field of International Relations. Oxford University’s international relations journal, St Antony's International Review (STAIR), is calling for papers for the February 2018 Issue, dedicated to an academic analysis of the implications of ‘post-truth’ political movements to international affairs.

The rise of an international wave of populist political movements has challenged the wisdom and advice (and very existence) of experts in many fields, particularly international relations. Donald Trump rode to victory on calls to repeal longstanding bulwarks of the international system, from NAFTA to NATO, and has been seen by some as a new shift toward isolationism, while the consequences of the British decision to leave the European Union are still unclear. These decisions, which largely came to the surprise and dismay of social scientists, raise serious questions for experts in international relations. Scholars, now more than ever, are challenged to reassert their perspective on these developments as well as their own role in knowledge production.

World politics increasingly relies on scientific and technical solutions to problems ranging from climate change to nuclear nonproliferation, trade legislation, and the complexity of international cooperation, and yet recent political movements worldwide seem to challenge not only the validity but also the very existence of such expertise. Thus, we face a challenge in how we reconcile the importance of expert opinion with an increasingly post-factual political world.

Papers may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:
- Role of global governance and experts in international affairs
- The role of technical and scientific expertise in solving world problems
- Growing trends towards isolationism and protectionism
- The role of referenda and popular opinion in foreign policy
- The future of the free trade regime in light of growing protectionism
- The impact of populism on global climate change negotiations
- The challenges presented by big data in international relations

Please submit your contributions to:

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