




# **SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVISM:** **社會建構國際關係理論**

Prof. I Yuan (袁易教授)



*Social constructivism* as one of the three major IR theories has evolved for three decades of its development. It provides explanations of processes and outcomes remained unexplained, the role of intersubjective meaning in world politics manifested through norms, identity, and culture. This course will survey the major literature including various strands of scholarship as well as its applications to the subfields of international security, international law, and regional contingencies. The course will also highlight the ontological, epistemological or methodological dimensions of its theory-building and its applications to the contemporary issues. The class will be conducted in seminar format. All students are required to prepare the weekly readings for class discussion. Students are required to submit a research proposal, including a problem statement, literature review, theoretical framework and research design (three thousand words in length) to demonstrate your comprehension of *Social Constructivism per se* with instructor's prior approval of topics due on the last day of the class. Reading materials are available at the University on-line services.



## **Fall 2022**

Monday, 10:20 -12:10 hrs.

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Office Hours: by appointment

# INTRODUCTION

Week 1. Sep. 5, 2022

Tejal Rao, "In a Tense Political Moment, Taiwanese Cuisine Tells Its Own Story,"  
***New York Times***, August 18, 2022,

[https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/16/dining/taiwanese-cuisine.html?\\_ga=2.135652657.1626819837.1661155879-1360100902.1](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/16/dining/taiwanese-cuisine.html?_ga=2.135652657.1626819837.1661155879-1360100902.1)

# STATE OF THE FIELD (I)

Week 2: Sep. 12, 2022

Martin Wight, "Why there is no IR theory ? " in H. Butterfield and M. Wight, eds., ***Diplomatic Investigation*** (London: George and Unwin, 1966), pp. 17-34.

Charles W. Kegleg, Jr., "Bridge-building in the study of International Relations: How Kohn we do better," in Donald J. Puchala, ed., ***Visions of International Relations*** (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2002), pp. 62-80.

David A. Lake, "Why isms are evil: theory, epistemology and academic sects as impediments to understanding and progress," ***International Studies Quarterly***, 55:2, 2011, pp. 465-480.

John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, "Leaving theory behind: Why simplistic hypothesis testing is bad for International Relations," ***European Journal of International Relations***, 19(3), 2013, pp. 427-457.

# STATE OF THE FIELD (II)

Week 3, Sep. 19, 2022

M.E. Bertucci, Jarrod Hayes and Patrick James, eds., ***Constructivism Reconsidered: Past, Present, and Future*** (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2018), chapters 1-3.

Hoyoon Jung, “The Evolution of Social Constructivism in Political Science: Past to Present”, ***SAGE Open***, (January-March, 2019), pp. 1-10.

J. Samuel Barkin and Laura Sjoberg, ***International Relations’ Last Synthesis? Decoupling Constructivist and Critical Approaches*** (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), chapter 8.

J. Samuel Barkin, ed., ***The Social Construction of State Power*** (Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2020), chapter 1.

# SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVISM TURN (1): ANARCHICAL CULTURES AND WENDT

Week 4: Sep. 26, 2022

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), chapter 6.

Stefano Guzzini and Anna Leander, eds., *Constructivism and International Relations: Alexander Wendt and His Critics* (London & New York: Routledge, 2006), chapter 10.

Alexander Wendt, *Quantum Mind and Social Science* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Saif Shahin and Q.E. Huang, “Friend, Ally or Rival? Twitter Diplomacy as Technosocial Performance of National Identity”, *International Journal of Communication*, 13 (2019), pp. 5100-5118.

# SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVISM TURN (2): IR/IL AND ONUF

Week 5: Oct. 3, 2022

Nicholas Onuf, ***World of Our Making: Rules and Rule in the Social Theory and International Relations*** (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1989).

Nicholas Onuf, “Constructivism: a users’ manual,” in Vendulka Kubalkova, et al., ***International Relations in a constructed world***, (Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1998).

Nicholas Onuf, ***International Legal Theory: Essays and Engagements, 1966-2006*** (London and New York: Routledge, 2008).

Nicholas Onuf, ***Making Sense, Making Worlds: Constructivism in Social Theory and International Relations*** (New York and London: Routledge, 2012).





# NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Week 6: Oct. 10, 2022

# SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVISM TURN (3): KRATOCHWIL AND NORMS

Week 7: Oct. 17, 2022

Friedrich V. Kratochwil, ***Rules, Norms, and Decisions: On the Conditions of Practical and Legal Reasoning in International Relations and Domestic Affairs*** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), chapter 1.

Friedrich V. Kratochwil, ***The Puzzles of Politics: Inquiries into the genesis and transformation of international relations*** (London & New York: Routledge, 2010), chapter 1.

I Yuan, “Norm-Centered Constructivism and Cross-Strait Relations: Theory and Practice,” ***Issues & Studies***, 48, no.3, (2012), pp. 75-104.

Fredrick Kratochwil, ***After Theory, before Big-data: Thinking about Praxis, Politics and International Affairs*** (London and New York: Routledge, 2022).

# METHODOLOGY

Week 8: Oct. 24, 2022

Rawi Abdeal et al., ***Measuring Identity: a Guide for Social Scientists*** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), chapters 1-2.

Audie Klotz and Cecelia Lynch, ***Strategies for Research in Constructivist International Relations*** (Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2007).

J.W. Willis, ***Foundations of Qualitative Research***, (New York: Sage, 2007), chapters 1-4.

Audie Klotz and Deepa Prakash, eds., ***Qualitative Methods in International Relations*** (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

J. Samuel Barkin and Laura Sjoberg, eds., ***Interpretive Quantification: Methodological Exploration for Critical and Constructivist IR*** (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2017), chapter 1.

Alex Bukh, ***The Social Construction of Territorial Dispute in Northeast Asia*** (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020).

Anna Kuteleva, ***China's Energy Security and Relations with Petrostates*** (New York: Routledge Press, 2022).

# RESEARCH PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS /TERM PAPER OUTLINES DUE

Week 9: Nov. 07, 2022

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, "Taking Stock: the Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science*, (2001), 4, pp. 391-416.

Alastair Iain Johnston, *Social States: China in International Institutions, 1980-2000* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008), chapter 1.

Michaela Pfadenhauer and Hubert Knoblauch, eds., **Social Constructivism as Paradigm?: The Legacy of The Social Construction of Reality** (New York: Routledge Press, 2019), chapter 5.

Alastair Iain Johnston, "China in a World of Orders: Rethinking Compliance and Challenge in Beijing's International Relations," *International Security*, 44:2, (Fall, 2019), pp. 9-60.

# IL/IR

Week 10: Nov. 14, 2022

Nicholas Onuf, *"IR Theory and IL: the genealogy of a rocky relationship,"* a lecture delivered at the IIR, NCCU. (2010).

Jutta Brunnee and Stephen J. Toope, Constructivism and International Law, in Jeffrey L. Dunoff and Mark A. Pollack, eds., *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on International Law and International Relations: The State of the Art* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), chapter 5.

袁易，〈重新理解中國條約行為的身分與規範意義〉，*世界政治研究*，1:5，(2020)，頁35-73。 (I Yuan, "Revisiting the Identity and Normative Meanings of China's Treaty Behavior," *World Politics Studies*, 1:5, (2020), pp. 35-73.

Isabel Lifante Vidal, "In Defence of a Constructivist Conception of Legal Interpretation," *REUVS: Journal for Constitutional Theory and Philosophy of Law*, 40, 2020, pp. 63-83

# BALANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS

Week 11: Nov. 21, 2022

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson and Daniel L. Nexon, "Relations Before States: Substance, Process and the Study of World Politics," *European Journal of International Relations*, 5, 3, 1999, pp. 291-332.

Ya-qing Qin, *A Relational Theory of World Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), Introduction.

Chih-yu Shih, *Post-Chineseness: Cultural Politics and International Relations* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2022), chapter 1.

# CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH OF SWEDEN'S NEUTRALITY

Week 12: Nov. 28, 2022

Christine Agius, *The Social Construction of Swedish Neutrality* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006).

L. A. Ghica, "Beyond regional integration: social constructivism, regional cohesiveness and the regionalism puzzle," *Studia Politica: Romanian Political Science Review*, 13(4), (2013), pp. 733-752.

Pauling Neuding, "The End of Nordic Neutrality," *Project Syndicate*, May 4, 2022.  
<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/sweden-nato-membership-end-of-neutrality-by-paulina-neuding-2022>

# MIDDLE EAST: POST-SECULAR CONSTRUCTIVISM

Week 13: Dec. 05, 2022

Louis A. Gordon and Ian M. Oxnevad, ***Middle East Politics for the New Millennium: A Constructivist Approach*** (Lexington: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016).

Henry Kissinger, ***World Order*** (New York: Penguin Press, 2014), chapter 3.

Vendulka Kubalkova, “What Constructivism?” in Shahram Akbarzadeh, ed., ***Routledge Handbook of IR in the Middle East*** (New York: Routledge, 2019), chapter 3.



# RUSSIA AND EAST EUROPE : POLITICS OF IDENTITY

Week 14: Dec. 12, 2022

Oliver Schmidtke and Serhy Yekelchuk, eds., ***Europe's Last Frontier? Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine between Russia and the European Union*** (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

Håvard Bækken and Johannes Due Enstad, "Identity under Siege: Selective Securitization of History in Putin's Russia." ***Slavonic and East European Review* 98**, no. 2 (2020): 321-44.

Olena Palko and Constantin Ardeleanu, eds., ***Making Ukraine. Negotiating, Contesting, and Drawing the Borders in the Twentieth Century*** (McGill: Queen's University Press, 2022).



# STUDENTS PRESENTATION

Week 15: Dec. 19, 2022

# **EVALUATIONS:**

<b>Participation &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Term Paper Outlines</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Selective Weekly Reports</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Term Paper</b>	<b>40%</b>