

RETRENCHMENT // ENTRENCHMENT

Exclusion in a Time of 'Crisis'

April 17-18, 2020, Baltimore MD

2019 saw mass protests break out across the globe in countries like Chile, France, Haiti, and Lebanon. This widespread mobilization has responded to a range of government measures from authoritarianism to austerity, regressive taxes to social media crackdowns. These broader governance trends are not limited to such sites of protest; we observe similar forms of carceral and military expansion as well as consolidation of border regimes (entrenchment) combined with economic austerity and restrictions on access to public goods (retrenchment). With social unrest, wealth inequalities, and mass migration signaling social and political upheavals, states are attempting to structure their responses both globally and nationally through a combination of social service withdrawal and militaristic fortification. For this year's conference, we invite submissions that consider how the politics of exclusion are mediated by state strategies of retrenchment and entrenchment.

What connections can we draw between governance strategies of retrenchment and entrenchment? How can the markers of capitalist governance, such as the withdrawal of the welfare state in Europe and the imposition of 'anti-poverty' measures in the Global South, be understood in tandem with the expansion in policing of immigrants, mass incarceration, police and military brutality, and political authoritarianism? By investigating this interplay between state expansion and government withdrawal, we bring attention to contemporary strategies of state and imperial power. To what extent are these exclusionary policies the product of a moment of political 'crisis' and, alternatively, how are they shaped by long-term, continual processes of colonialism, racism, and economic precarity? What global connections can we draw between similar processes of retrenchment and entrenchment taking place in regions as diverse as Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, Europe, and the United States?

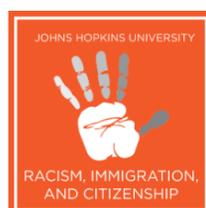
We accept applications from graduate students in any discipline across the social sciences and the humanities.

Papers might explore, but are not limited to, the following questions and topics:

- + What are the government techniques of retrenchment and entrenchment? What are the types of tools (e.g., legal, institutional, civic, political) at their disposal?
- + How is exclusion justified and reproduced through legal, economic, security, cultural or historical logics and ideologies? Who are the state and non-state actors sustaining retrenchment and entrenchment?
- + Who is targeted by government withdrawal and state expansion? How are different groups constructed as deserving and undeserving? How are these notions of deservingness developed alongside conceptions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and religion?
- + Who is benefitting from austerity and fortification? How do governments use these techniques for social control and/or political gain? Which non-state actors benefit from these measures?
- + How do entrenchment and retrenchment play out in different spaces (borders, gated communities, slums, prisons, schools, the home, workplaces, bureaucracies, and medical and social-service sites)? How do these shape specific social and political institutions?
- + What responses emerge from and mediate retrenchment and entrenchment in everyday life? How are these disruptions experienced and negotiated in ways that range from ordinary acts of care to collective social mobilization?

Please submit a 300 word abstract to ricjhu@jhu.edu with the subject "RIC Conference Abstract." Include your name and institutional affiliation. Limited travel grants and accommodation with graduate students for up to two nights are available for accepted participants. Please indicate whether you would like to apply for travel assistance and justify the required amount in your email.

Deadline for submission is 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Friday, February 14th, 2020.



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Please send any questions to ricjhu@jhu.edu.

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