

International Studies Association Convention 2010
**THEORY VS. POLICY? CONNECTING SCHOLARS AND
PRACTITIONERS**

Panel Discussion
***Connecting Theory and Policy: Reflecting on the Work of
Institutes of International Affairs***

Eglinton & Winton Room, Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel
Thursday 18 February 2010, 3:45pm – 5.30pm

Aim

The Roundtable will provide an opportunity for representatives of institutes of international affairs to discuss the role that such institutes play in crossing the divide between theory and practice in international affairs.

Representatives from around the world will share their experiences on the differing roles of their institutes in facilitating communication and discussion between academics, policy makers and the general public – whether as a forum for public debate, a knowledge-generator or policy advisor.

The Roundtable will also provide a forum for participants to share experiences and learning between institutes and identify areas for future growth and collaboration. This follows on from a meeting of 39 representatives of institutes of international affairs at the Australian Institute of International Affairs' 75th Anniversary National Conference in August 2008.

Participants

1. Chair: Ms Melissa Conley Tyler
Australian Institute of International Affairs, Australia
2. Prof Jan Melissen
Netherlands Institute of International Affairs, Netherlands
3. Dr Cornelius Adebahr
The German Council on Foreign Relations, Germany
4. Mr Mats Braun
Institute of International Relations, Czech Republic
5. Dr Laurence Weinbaum
Israel Council on Foreign Relations, Israel
6. Ms Aurora Adame
Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales, Mexico
7. Mr Alberto Sepulveda A
Instituto de Relaciones Internacionales, Chile

8. Dr Eduardo Platon
World Affairs Council of America (New Orleans chapter), US

Points for Discussion

The Chair will open the Roundtable with discussion of the topic of institutes of international affairs and the various models that can be identified among the more than 100 institutes worldwide.

Each participant will then be called on to speak on their institute for no more than 10 minutes, followed by any questions for clarification or further information.

Participants may wish to cover the following topics in their remarks:

1. ***Aims and Activities***- What is the role of your institute and its main activities? What model does your institute follow in fulfilling its mission?
2. ***Connecting Theory and Policy*** - How does your institute attempt to connect theory and policy? Are there areas where this is particularly successful or difficult to achieve?
3. ***Challenges*** - How does your institute balance factors such as an academic v. policy orientation, influence v. independence from decision-makers, regional v. global focus and impartiality v. policy engagement?

The Chair will aim to leave time for approximately 10-15 minutes of group discussion on the issues raised across presentations at the end of the session – given that one of the key aims of the Roundtable is sharing knowledge among institutes of international affairs. Participants may wish to continue the Roundtable discussion informally following the session.