



Call for Abstracts

2nd Annual Graduate Students Seminar

*Understanding Contemporary Global
Challenges and Imperatives of
Multilateral Co-operation*

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JMI CAMPUS, NEW DELHI

Organiser

International Studies Association
MMAJ-Academy of International Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi 110025

Last date for abstract submission ->>>>>>- January 25, 2025

Registration by ->>>>>>- February 07, 2025

Concept Note

Understanding Contemporary Global Challenges and Imperatives of Multilateral Co-operation

The contemporary global landscape is marked by a multitude of intricate challenges that transcend national borders, encompassing geopolitical conflicts, economic inequality, climate change, pandemics, and technological disruptions. These issues are complex, interconnected, and global in nature, necessitating coordinated and robust international cooperation. In an increasingly interdependent world, the importance of multilateral collaboration cannot be overstated. Nevertheless, the current state of global governance is beset by difficulties, as international organizations and regimes struggle to adapt to rapidly evolving circumstances. Therefore, addressing the myriad challenges confronting the world today requires strong multilateral cooperation, effective global governance, and the active engagement of all stakeholders, including states, international organizations (IOs), and civil society. This seminar seeks to explore these global challenges, evaluate critically the performance of existing international frameworks, underline the imperative of multilateral cooperation, and delineate approaches for addressing these issues/challenges.

Contemporary Global Challenges

Geopolitical Conflicts and Security: Geopolitical tensions, territorial disputes, and conflicts pose significant threats to global peace and security. The resurgence of great power rivalry, as seen in the tensions between the United States and China, and the ongoing conflicts in regions like the West Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe, underscore the importance of multilateral diplomacy and conflict resolution mechanisms. The role of the United Nations (UN) and regional organizations in maintaining peace and security is critical but often challenged by political complexities.

Economic Inequality and Development: Global economic inequality continues to widen, exacerbated by factors such as globalisation, technological advancements, and economic policies. The divide between developed and developing nations has profound implications for global stability and development. Multilateral organizations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) play a crucial role in addressing these disparities, but their effectiveness is often questioned. There is a need for more inclusive and equitable global economic governance.

Global Trade and Economic Interdependence: The global trade system is under strain due to protectionist policies, trade wars, and disruptions caused by events like the COVID-19 pandemic. Multilateral institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO) are tasked with managing global trade relations, but they face significant challenges in maintaining a fair and open trading system. There is a growing need to reform the global trade architecture to better reflect the realities of the 21st century.

Climate Change and Environmental Degradation: Climate change represents one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. Rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, and environmental degradation threaten ecosystems and human livelihoods across the globe. Despite the existence of multilateral agreements like the Paris Agreement, coordinated global action remains insufficient. The challenge lies in aligning national interests with global environmental goals and ensuring that commitments are met.

Global Health Crises: The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of global health systems and the critical need for international cooperation in addressing health emergencies. The pandemic has also highlighted the disparities in access to healthcare and vaccines, raising questions about global equity and solidarity. Strengthening global health governance and ensuring preparedness for future pandemics are essential tasks that require multilateral cooperation.

Technological Disruption and Cybersecurity: The rapid advancement of technology, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and cybersecurity, presents both opportunities and challenges. While technology can drive economic growth and innovation, it also raises ethical concerns, exacerbates inequalities, and creates new security risks. Multilateral cooperation is essential to develop global norms and regulations for emerging technologies, ensuring they are used for the collective good.

State of Global Governance and International Cooperation

Global governance structures and international organizations have played a crucial role in managing global challenges, but they are increasingly under pressure. The post-World War II international order, characterized by multilateralism and collective decision-making, is being challenged by rising nationalism, unilateralism, and the erosion of trust in international institutions.

The UN remains the cornerstone of global governance, with its broad mandate covering peace and security, human rights, and development. However, the UN faces significant challenges, including underfunding, politicization, and the difficulty of enforcing its resolutions. Reforming the UN to make it more effective and representative is a key issue in contemporary global governance. International Financial Institutions (IFIs), like the IMF, World Bank, and other IFIs are critical in addressing global economic challenges, but their governance structures are often criticized for being outdated and unrepresentative of the current global economic landscape. There is a need for reform to ensure that these institutions can effectively address global inequality and support sustainable development. The WTO is central to the global trade system, but it is facing a crisis of relevance and effectiveness. Disputes over trade rules, the rise of bilateral agreements, and the challenges of enforcing multilateral trade rules have weakened the institution. Reforming the WTO to better address contemporary trade challenges is crucial.

Regional organizations like, the European Union (EU), African Union (AU), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and ASEAN play an important role in regional stability and cooperation. However, their effectiveness is often limited by regional conflicts, lack of resources, and competing national interests. Strengthening regional cooperation and integrating regional efforts into the global governance framework is necessary. Non-state actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations, and civil society, play an increasingly important role in global governance. Their involvement can complement state-led efforts, but there is a need to ensure that their contributions are aligned with global public goods.

Imperatives for Multilateral Cooperation

In light of the complexity and interdependence of contemporary global challenges, multilateral cooperation cannot be viewed as a mere option, but an absolute necessity. In the face of these challenges, no nation is powerful enough to tackle them alone, no matter what size their economy is. The imperative for multilateral cooperation lies in:

1. *Pooling Resources and Expertise*: Global challenges require collective resources and expertise. Multilateral cooperation allows countries to share knowledge, technology, and financial resources, enhancing the capacity to address complex issues.
2. *Ensuring Global Equity and Justice*: Multilateral cooperation is essential for promoting global equity and justice. It provides a platform for all countries, regardless of size or power, to have a voice in global decision-making processes.
3. *Building Resilience and Solidarity*: In an era of global crises, multilateral cooperation fosters resilience by promoting solidarity and collective action. It helps build trust among nations and ensures that the global community is better prepared to respond to future challenges.
4. *Addressing Transnational Issues*: Many global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, and cyber threats, are transnational in nature. Multilateral cooperation is the most effective way to address these issues, as they require coordinated responses across borders.
5. *Promoting Sustainable Development*: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out a global agenda for sustainable development. Achieving these goals requires multilateral cooperation, as they address interconnected issues such as poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability.

Objectives of the Seminar

The primary objectives of the seminar are:

1. To provide a comprehensive understanding of contemporary global challenges.
2. To assess the current state of global governance, international regimes, and organizations.
3. To explore the necessity of multilateral cooperation in addressing these challenges.
4. To propose actionable recommendations for strengthening multilateral cooperation and global governance for a better future.

The seminar seeks to facilitate dialogue, generate innovative ideas, and propose actionable solutions for shaping a better future. By examining the below-mentioned or related themes and sub-themes, the seminar will offer a platform for graduate students and emerging scholars to participate in substantive discussions on the critical importance of multilateral cooperation in addressing contemporary global challenges. The seminar will feature keynote addresses by prominent experts in the field, paper presentations by graduate students, and interactive workshops. The main aim of this seminar is to give graduate students a forum to investigate, evaluate, and talk about the different aspects of contemporary global issues and challenges, and the need for multilateral cooperation. Student participants will be able to make in-person oral presentations (10-15 minutes) at a day-long seminar to present their research, exchange ideas, and engage in constructive dialogue on the seminar theme. The 'certificate of paper presentation' will be awarded to the paper presenters if they attend the entire seminar between 09:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Seminar Organisers seek submissions of original research articles, case studies, and theoretical analyses from student participants that contribute to a better understanding of various facets of contemporary global issues, as well as the importance of multilateral collaboration among various stakeholders. Abstracts can be submitted on the following sub-themes or any other topic related to the seminar's general theme.

Major Themes and Sub-Themes

Theme 1: International Security and Conflict Resolution

- The role of the United Nations in peacekeeping and conflict prevention
- Regional security organizations and their role in global peace (e.g., NATO, AU, ASEAN)
- The resurgence of great power rivalry (U.S.-China, Russia-NATO tensions)
- Multilateral strategies for counterterrorism and extremism
- Cybersecurity and its impact on international security cooperation
- The global arms trade and its influence on conflict zones
- Conflict resolution and peacebuilding in post-conflict societies
- The challenges of nuclear proliferation and arms control treaties
- Addressing security challenges posed by climate change (climate security)
- The role of international law and diplomacy in conflict management
- Women, peace, and security: Integrating gender perspectives into conflict resolution
- Sanctions and their effectiveness in resolving international disputes
- Humanitarian interventions and the responsibility to protect (R2P)
- Peace processes in the Middle East and other conflict zones
- The role of private military contractors in modern conflict

Theme 2: Global Economic Governance and Development

- Reforming international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank) for equitable development
- Global trade dynamics and the future of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The impact of globalization on economic inequality and poverty
- Multilateral efforts for sustainable development and inclusive growth
- Economic interdependence and global supply chain disruptions (e.g., COVID-19, trade wars)
- Taxation in a globalized economy and international tax cooperation
- The role of multilateral development banks in financing green growth
- Challenges of economic integration within regional trade agreements (e.g., EU, RCEP)
- The future of work and global labour markets in the digital age
- Debt crises in developing countries and multilateral responses
- Sustainable finance and investment frameworks for global markets
- Combating corruption and promoting transparency through global governance
- Gender equity in global economic governance and its impact on development
- The role of corporate social responsibility in global economic governance
- Economic sanctions and their implications for multilateral trade systems

Theme 3: Global Environmental Governance

- International efforts for climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g., Paris Agreement)
- Global biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration strategies
- The circular economy and sustainable resource management
- Successes and challenges of international environmental agreements
- Financing green transitions in developing countries through multilateral cooperation
- Environmental justice and equity in global governance
- Addressing climate-induced migration and displacement
- Renewable energy policies and global energy security challenges
- Urbanization's impact on environmental sustainability
- Ocean governance and marine biodiversity conservation efforts
- Corporate environmental responsibility in global markets
- Food security in the context of climate change and population growth
- Indigenous knowledge and global environmental sustainability
- Combating deforestation and desertification through international collaboration
- The role of new technologies (e.g., AI, Big Data) in environmental governance

Theme 4: Human Rights, Migration, and Global Justice

- The role of international law in protecting human rights across borders
- Multilateral responses to refugee crises and forced displacement
- Global migration governance: Policy challenges and opportunities
- Human rights and environmental justice: The intersection of climate and equity
- International cooperation in combating human trafficking
- The role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in global justice
- Statelessness and the international legal framework for its eradication
- Indigenous peoples' rights within global governance systems
- Gender justice and its role in multilateral cooperation frameworks
- Labour rights in a globalized economy: The impact of globalization on workers
- Children's rights in conflict zones and refugee situations
- Freedom of expression and the challenges of maintaining global standards
- The role of civil society and NGOs in advancing global human rights
- International humanitarian law and protection during conflicts
- The role of regional human rights mechanisms (e.g., European Court of Human Rights)

Theme 5: Global Health and Pandemic Preparedness

- Strengthening global health systems in the aftermath of COVID-19
- Vaccine equity and the global distribution of life-saving treatments
- Multilateral cooperation in pandemic preparedness and response
- The role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in global health governance
- Public health diplomacy in addressing transnational health threats
- Addressing health inequities and access to healthcare in developing nations
- Global health and climate change: Addressing the health-environment nexus

- Mental health as a priority in global health frameworks
- Health security and international law in tackling pandemics
- The role of technology and innovation in improving global health outcomes
- Financing health systems and multilateral health initiatives
- Strengthening health systems in conflict-affected regions
- Combatting antimicrobial resistance through global cooperation
- Sharing health data internationally: Privacy, ethics, and effectiveness
- Addressing non-communicable diseases in the context of globalization

Theme 6: Technology, Innovation, and Global Governance

- Global governance frameworks for artificial intelligence and emerging technologies
- Data privacy and security: International regulations and global norms
- The role of technology in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Cyber governance: Challenges and opportunities for multilateral cooperation
- Ethical considerations in the governance of AI and other advanced technologies
- International cooperation in space exploration and technology governance
- The digital divide: Addressing global inequality through technological advancement
- Intellectual property rights in the context of global innovation
- Technology's impact on labour markets and the future of work
- Blockchain technology and its role in global financial governance
- E-governance and the internationalization of government services
- Technology transfer and capacity building in developing nations
- The role of social media in shaping international relations
- Cybercrime and multilateral responses to emerging digital threats
- The impact of technological innovation on international trade and commerce

Theme 7: Multilateral Cooperation: Institutional Framework

- UN frameworks for equitable resource sharing and peace
- WHO-led pandemic preparedness for global health resilience
- Paris Agreement: climate negotiations and technology transfers
- WTO reforms for fair international trade governance
- IMF–World Bank interventions to reduce economic disparities
- Minilateral mechanisms for flexible, issue-specific cooperation
- IAEA oversight for robust nuclear non-proliferation
- ICJ-driven frameworks for global dispute resolution
- OCHA's leadership in coordinated crisis management
- Regional integration: lessons from ASEAN, EU, and AU
- UNHCR-led frameworks for equitable refugee and migration governance
- INTERPOL intelligence-sharing for counterterrorism cooperation
- Digital cooperation: ITU regulations for inclusive internet governance
- UNCLOS enforcement for cross-border maritime security
- Coordinating SDGs with collaborative financing and policies
- UNHRC mechanisms for global human rights advocacy
- UN Women-led initiatives for advancing gender equality
- UNESCO guidelines on ethical AI governance
- International coordination for climate resilience and disaster preparedn

Who can participate?

Students enrolled in Master's or PhD courses in Social Sciences/Humanities at Indian universities are invited to submit abstracts. To be considered for participation, a 250-word abstract from a single author, a brief biographical note, and a scanned copy of the participant's official certificate or institutional ID card should be sent to email (graduate.student.seminar.isa.jamia@gmail.com) by **January 25, 2025**. Please include your name, institutional affiliation, and contact information in the submission. All submitted abstracts will go through a blind peer-review process by a panel of professors. The organisers will notify the abstract acceptance by January 26, 2025. All paper presenters must submit their well-referenced draft paper (about 3000-5000 words) by February 20, 2025.

All applicants whose papers are accepted must register by paying the necessary registration fee (as applicable). The registration fee is to be made exclusively by **demand draft** in favour of THE REGISTRAR, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA, payable at NEW DELHI, and the original draft be deposited in the office of the MMAJ-Academy of International Studies, JMI, by **February 07, 2025**. Demand draft may also be sent through the post to The Director, MMAJ-Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi 110025.

Outstation paper presenters & participants will be responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements to attend the seminar. Other interested students are welcome to join the seminar for free following on-the-spot registration; however, they must arrange their own lunch on the seminar day.

The registration fee and tentative number of prospective participants

Categories of participants	Registration fee	Maximum no. of paper presenters/ student participants
M.A. students of MMAJ-AIS (who are the members of the Academy's Int'l Studies Association):	Rs. 500/-	20 (Twenty)
All other M.A. students enrolled at Jamia Millia Islamia and other universities/colleges/institutions:	Rs. 750/-	30 (Thirty)
PhD students enrolled at Jamia Millia Islamia and other universities/colleges/institutions:	Rs. 1250/-	100 (Hundred)
Young researchers who have successfully completed their PhD from any UGC-recognised university during the past eight years.		
<i>The above registration fee includes stationary, a lunch, refreshments, and e-certificates.</i>		150 (One hundred fifty)

Advisory Committee

*(Faculty Members, MMAJ- Academy of International Studies,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi)*

Prof. G M Shah, Hony Director

Prof. Rashmi Doraiswamy

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Seminar Organisers

*(Members of the Academy's International
Studies Association, 2024-25)*

Prof. G M Shah, Ex-Officio President, Academy's ISA

Prof. Mujib Alam, Students Advisor, MMAJ-AIS

Mr. Mohd. Hadi Raza J Siddiqui, Vice President

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Mr. Faiyaz Alam, Joint Secretary

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Seminar Convener

Prof. Mujib Alam