The Remarque Institute’s
KANDERSTEG SEMINAR

‘TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER’

Wednesday, April 30th – Sunday, May 4th, 2014
Programme

Wednesday, April 30th

Arrival in Kandersteg of participants by train

Check in: Waldhotel Doldenhorn
CG-3718 Kandersteg
Tel. +41.33.675.81.81
Fax +41.33.675.81.85

19:00 Welcome reception and dinner at hotel

Thursday, May 1st

10:00 Introduction

Samuel Moyn (Columbia University) and Nils Gilman (UC Berkeley)

Welcoming Remarks

Session I

10:30 – 12:30 Nils Gilman, Chair

Who/What/When Was the NIEO?

The NIEO is the 8-track cartridge of transnational legal, political, and economic history: despite being heralded in its heyday as the harbinger of the future, it is today remembered, if at all, as a peculiar and vaguely embarrassing artifact of the 1970s. This consensus view of the NIEO as a faded irrelevance masks not only its centrality to its own time, but also the lack of consensus both then and today about what the NIEO even was: What precipitated its emergence? What were its primary claims and demands? Who were its main sponsors and critics? When and what were the key turning points in its brief but convoluted history? Establishing a shared timeline of people, texts, and episodes is the first order of business for understanding the historical and continued significance of the NIEO.
Thursday, May 1st (continued)

10:30 – 11:00  Brief opening comments
   (Bockman, Dietrich, Anghie)

11:00 - 12:30  Discussion

12:45   Lunch at hotel

Free afternoon until:

Session II

17:00 – 19:00  Nicolas Guilhot, Chair

Languages of the NIEO: Politics, Economics, Law

The NIEO as slogan and phenomena rested on, and became a generator for, at least three different kinds of discourse – political, economic and legal. In each case, the NIEO both drew upon and re-articulated pre-existing languages and intellectual movements from each of these spheres. How can we understand the relationships between the political, economic and legal discourses embedded within the NIEO? What lineages do these languages have and what different kinds of projects and visions did they bring with them? Did their rearticulation through international organizations transform these languages in significant ways? How did these rearticulations have recursive effects on national and regional discourses of law, politics and economics? In what ways can we think of the NIEO as a chapeau or placeholder, container or clearinghouse, for intellectual discourses from different disciplines and with different geographic centers of gravity, but united around specific common problematics of the post-colonial world? Or is this to impose a coherence where none exists?

17:00 – 17:30  Brief opening comments
   (McFarland, Garavini, Akinkugbe, Lal)

17:30 – 19:00  Discussion

19:00   Drinks followed by dinner
The NIEO drew heavily on a post-colonial demand for sovereignty and sovereign equality, and a 20th century imaginary of the state as capable of creating political-legal structures which govern economic development and societal transformation. At the same time, another set of 20th century claims were becoming internationally significant – languages concerning rights of the person and human dignity. Each implies different scales and geographies of justice, one within and between the political order of states, the other more stridently cosmopolitan in vision. Can we discern and trace the interaction of these imaginaries within the polemical construction of the NIEO? What concepts of development, justice and rights informed the NIEO language and agenda, and what were its antecedents and descendants? How can we understand the relationship between discourses of human rights and human dignity from the 1940s and 1950s, the notions of economic sovereignty, development and global justice manifested in the NIEO?

10:00 – 10:30 Brief opening comments
(Whelan, Sargent, Oszu, O’Sullivan)

10:30 – 12:00 Discussion

12:15 Lunch at hotel

Please spend some time this afternoon informally discussing how our emergent understanding of the NIEO should alter at least one important narrative in your field — this will inform the group discussion during the last panel.

Free afternoon until:

19:00 Drinks followed by dinner
Saturday, May 3rd

Session IV

10:30 – 12:30 Miriam Ticktin, Chair

Legacies

The NIEO was quickly enclosed in a “failure narrative,” although the exact date of its demise is widely disputed. Did it fail? Is it productive to view competing projects as too much enmeshed in the NIEO agenda to avoid carrying aspects of it forward? (This includes engagements with the NIEO both at the level of high politics and economic policy, which permanently transformed the southern agenda of the leading powers, as well as at the ideological level, as the case of global justice discourse shows.) Or do we regard the NIEO as an evanescent formation that mattered primarily because of the tools that were developed to contain or destroy it, like the trade liberalization, foreign direct investment, and individual human rights (including women’s rights) protection that followed in its wake?

10:30 – 11:00 Brief opening comments
(Ogle, Benjamin, Moyn)

11:00 – 12:30 Discussion

12:45 Lunch at hotel
Free afternoon until:

19:00 Drinks and Gala dinner at hotel

Sunday, May 4th

Departure of participants

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