

**Activity summary of CIAS research fellow in Budapest**

Grant category:  junior  senior  non-resident senior



**Name:** Rowan Lubbock

**Home institute:** Queen Mary, University of London. Lecturer in International Political Economy of Development. UK.

**Academic Year / Semester:** 2022/23

**Duration:** 10 months

**Project title:** Fields and Frontiers: Agriculture and the Making of International (Dis)Order

**Project description\*:**

This project offers a multi-disciplinary approach to a radically neglected dimension of the Liberal International Order (LIO) and its current crisis. The current war in Ukraine has sparked what appears to be the third world food crisis of the post-war era, with daily headlines warning of food shortages, price spikes and malnourishment. Yet this is just one conjunctural episode of a much longer saga, on that the IR discipline has strangely ignored. The project topic thus sits at the intersection of international relations, historical sociology, critical agrarian studies, and Marxian political economy in order to understand how and why the food on our plates became the stuff of power politics.

The aim of the project is to shed more light on key institutions, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the specific socio-economic forces that fed into its creation. The story of the FAO brings into sharp focus the central divide among intellectuals and political officials during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century: between planning and markets. Through archival research carried out at the FAO headquarters in Rome, as well as supplementary collections in the United States, the project aims to undertake an ambitious historical reconstruction of how the inter-related dimensions of fields and frontiers led to series of unintended consequences that ultimately necessitated the creation of international institutions tasked with governing the global politics of food. In tracing the historical preconditions leading up to the formation of FAO, as well as the subsequent development policies undertaken by this institution, this project aims to make a fundamental contribution to our understanding of how the post-war global order attempted to unite the twin elements of markets and planning in a radically unstable and contradictory manner, and thus how the universal pretension of the LIO, premised on the universal promise of peace and liberty, ended up on the precipice of socio-ecological collapse.

**Achieved result(s)\*:**

Article submitted to *International Organization*: January 2023

Article submitted to *International Political Economy of Development*: May 2023

Attended British International Studies Association Conference (Glasgow): June 2023

Submitted abstract to Special Issue in *Journal of Political Ecology* (with Mladen Domazet): June 2023

**Connected publications\***

1.

**Title:** "Fields, Frontiers and International Food Regimes"

**Date of submission/acceptance/publication:** Submitted 24 January 2023

**Journal:** *International Organization*

**Journal category** (if applicable):  Q1  Q2  Q3

**Status:**  accepted/published  in progress  planned

2.

**Title:** The Geopolitics of Passive Revolution and the Ghost of Malthus in the American Century

**Date of submission/acceptance/publication:** Submitted 27 May 2023

**Journal:** *Review of International Political Economy*

**Journal category** (if applicable):  Q1  Q2  Q3

**Status:**  accepted/published  in progress  planned

**Additional activities\*** (public lectures, presentations, professional meetings, media connections etc.):

1. Presented project outline at 6<sup>th</sup> CIAS International Workshop, 25 October, 2023
2. Presented findings at 7<sup>th</sup> CIAS International Workshop, 11 May, 2023
3. Presented paper at BISA Conference, Glasgow, 20-23 June, 2023
4. Presented findings at the Future Potentials Observatory, Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, 5 July, 2023.

**Future plans, planned return** (if any):

I plan to return to Hungary later

I plan to maintain my professional contacts via e-mail

Any other comment:

\*Please give us a properly detailed summary.

Date: 5 July 2023

Signature:

