

PLENARY PANEL 2012

DIVERSITY ON THE DISCIPLINE: TENSION OR OPPORTUNITY IN RESPONDING TO
GLOBAL CHALLENGES

20TH JUNE 2012

The global financial crisis, continued concerns over terrorism, the projection of Western power into Iraq and Afghanistan, the growing significance of China and the emergence of the G20 states as major players, and political revolution in the Middle East, are amongst the challenges shaping contemporary international relations. Power is changing. Alliances are being reconfigured, and institutions are evolving. Security challenges are being articulated in a variety of areas including through technological change, health, natural disasters, and food scarcity.

In addressing these issues, International Studies is characterised by diversity. This includes differences in how global challenges are understood. Divergent methodological approaches shape the ways in which the substance of these global challenges is analysed. In turn, competing understandings lead to academics offering distinct responses to pressing issues in contemporary global politics.

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