

The United Nations have been founded to facilitate multilateral solutions to global problems, to promote a new world order of international cooperation and peace. Yet somehow it might seem that such an order is becoming more and more of an illusion. It appears that crises of global reach are taken on by only a handful of players on their own; the attempt to achieve a unison reaction is being made on fewer and fewer occasions. It is issues like the International Criminal Court, the Kyoto agreement, the SARS crisis, and the War on Iraq which have contributed to the appearance of an ever-growing rift within the International community.

From the perspective of the United Nations, the global and the local are seen in unison. The basis of such a union is neither artificial nor arbitrary: Human rights, amongst which are life, liberty and security of person, have been found and contested throughout all history and all cultures. Furthermore, they have been universally agreed upon in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, there is constant debate about the role of arts and culture as either unifying or dispersing factors in the concept of global governance and unity.

The ideas that have formed the United Nations have been shaped by the immediate experience of global destruction and the complete disregard of such values. However, just as its predecessor, the League of Nations, suffered from a particularity of interests, the UN grew out of the power structures of both the past war and the incipient Cold War.

Can the United Nations be effective as an international organization, or do they need to have more supranational authority? Can such a perspective be realistic at all? What would be the basis for such a supranational, sovereign institution?

The new and old fragmentation manifests itself in times of crisis, ad hoc coalitions of the willing (and unwilling) determining the politics of the day. Do such developments arise out of a systematic disregard not only of the UN but also of the idea behind them? Or do they constitute legitimate answers to a failure of the organization as such, to the systemic weakness due to historical circumstances at the time of its conception, a birth defect that needs correction? Are they the preemptive response to a still unanswered question of universally accepted global authority? Can an answer be found in the free interplay of strong and weak players, or is non-national guidance needed to not only increase the legitimacy of ad-hoc measures but also to create an atmosphere of trust and acceptance?

The second symposium held by students from Bard College and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin will tend to such questions. Together we will approach the topic from a German and an American point of view.

We invite all interested students to come and join us. For a list of participants, more information on the symposium and background material, please consult the web site.

This conference has been made possible by the generous support of

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
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### Organizers

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Philipp Kneis  
Janine Ludwig  
Emily Steinberg  
Valon Xharra

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For possible changes to the program, as well as for further information and background material, please consult the web site of the conference at

[www2.hu-berlin.de/amerika/projects/un](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/amerika/projects/un)

# From the National to the Global and Back?

The Role of the United Nations as a Supranational Institution. 2nd Bard/Humboldt Students Symposium, March 7, 12-13, 2004



Bard



## Sunday, March 7, 2004: Workshop

Olin 102

### 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Workshop I

Gregory Moynahan  
*The European Union*

### 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Workshop II

Reinhard Isensee  
*New Media in a Global Context*

### 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.: Lunch Break

### 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Workshop III

Jesse Browner (UN), Susan Bernofsky (Bard)  
*Translation at the UN*

### 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Workshop IV

Alan Sussman  
*Human Rights and International Law*

### 6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.: Dinner Break

### 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.: Concluding Discussion

## Friday, March 12, 2004: Symposium

Olin 115

### 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Session I

Moderator: Janine Ludwig

*Welcome Address and Introduction by the Organizers*

John Schulze, Thomas Wagenknecht  
*Perspectives for Saving the UN*

Juliane Bönisch, Christian Chilla  
*(Dys-) Function of Collective Security, or: the Security Council and the concept of Collective (Un-)Security*

### 2:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.: Session II

Moderator: Emily Steinberg

Bert Bobock  
*Anxiety and Politics as a threat for democracy and the United Nations Organization*

David Rose  
*"The New World Disorder": Perspectives for Transnational Democracy Beyond the UN*

Julia Roth, Ulrike Stiefelhagen  
*The UN and the New Wars*

### 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Keynote Address

### Reception

## Saturday, March 13, 2004: Symposium

Olin 102

### 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Session III

Moderator: John Schulze

Arielle Ginsberg  
*The United Nations as an International Body*

Liz Dempsey  
*The U.S. and the UN: Separating Fact from Fiction*

### 12:30 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.: Lunch Break

### 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.: Session IV

Moderator: Julia Roth

Nadine Helm  
*The UNESCO - Supporting Regional Identities Within a Global Setting*

Kate Crockford  
*International HR Law in the Levant: Palestine and Israel*

### 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Session V

Moderator: Valon Xharra

Karen Asmus  
*"We, the Peoples". Governmental and Non-Governmental Representation at the United Nations*

Katrin Nowka, Melanie-Simone Schlender  
*The Role of Germany within the EU and the UN*

Peter Kolesar  
*Central Europe: A Bridge Between Europe and America? The Role of International Organizations in Foreign Policies of Central European Countries*

### 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: Dinner Break

### 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.: Concluding Discussion

Moderator: Janine Ludwig

Philipp Kneis  
*Visions of the United Nations*