



**University of Ottawa International Political Economy Network
Inaugural Graduate Student Workshop
Democracy and Governance in an Age of Austerity
March 2, 2012, Ottawa, ON.**

Graduate students doing work in the field of International Political Economy are invited to a one-day workshop to be held at the University of Ottawa on March 2, 2012. Applications are welcome from students working in all social science disciplines.

Sponsored by the [International Political Economy Network](#) (IPEN) and the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS) at the University of Ottawa, the workshop will feature sessions built around 15-20 minute presentations, giving participants the chance to present their ideas and receive feed-back from junior and senior scholars. A mixture of presentation sessions and social time will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to network, exchange ideas and get to know each other. The atmosphere will be informal and collegial, and participants will be welcome to present their work in French or English. In addition to Ottawa-based faculty and visitors, the workshop will feature guest Mark Blyth of Brown University delivering a keynote address and taking part in each of the sessions.

There is no charge for registration, but participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. Sessions will end early enough on the day of the conference that it is expected most will be able to travel out that evening. Light snacks and refreshments will also be provided.

The theme of this year's workshop is inspired by the intensified discourses and practices of austerity and state retrenchment animated by the politics of the global financial crisis. As the world continues its uncertain pace towards economic recovery and stability following the global financial crisis of 2008, calls for austerity and increased fiscal restraint appear to be the order of the day from policymakers. In many ways, such developments effectively place democracy and global economic governance at a crossroads. Like the crisis that preceded it, the worldwide challenge of austerity has given rise to considerable debate on issues related to legitimacy, accountability, and the role of democratic participation in how decisions on the future of the global economy will be made. While markets are often seen as outpacing processes of democratic decision-making, the emergence of increasingly consolidated bottom-up movements around the globe (demonstrations opposing austerity policies in Europe, the Occupy movement in the US, etc.) appear to be challenging this assumption. While historical narratives may provide some guidance, the outcome of the current impasse is indeed far from clear. Is democracy resilient enough to withstand the ongoing crisis of capital? How will austerity impact democratic governance and decision making-processes in the years to come? And what role will democratic governance, social movements, and civil society play in charting a forward course on a range of political, economic, social, and environmental issues?

IPEN welcomes abstracts featuring reflections on the relationship between the politics of austerity and one or more of the following issues:

- Financial crisis, governance, international order, and interdependence
- The nature, causes, and consequences of austerity
- Power, sovereignty, and discipline
- Civil society, social movements, labour, and democracy
- Gendered aspects of the contemporary global economy
- Environmental crisis and change

Please e-mail abstracts by December 15, 2011 to: ipenconference@gmail.com