


# IR Rational Times

Vol. I Autumn 2016 | Published by 



© Kony 2012 Could be Another Imperialist Search for Oil

## IRAN'S SANCTIONS LIFTED

This event is monumental in history, not only for the promotion of peace, but especially for its significant economic and political impacts.

→ **PAGE 2**



© William F. Gowdy

## AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

Considering some historic examples, Ms. Norton believes that economic interests dominate U.S. foreign policy decisions, often influencing security preferences.

→ **PAGE 4**



© Image courtesy of khunaspix at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

## GLOBAL POLICY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The phenomenon that the effort of controlling infectious disease control is beyond one country's capacity raised the need of international collaboration.

→ **PAGE 10**



© Universal Pictures

## IR AND THE SEARCH OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE

We are likely to detect evidence of an extraterrestrial civilization within the next few decades. But what happens once we do? Who or which country will represent the Earth?

→ **PAGE 6**

# THE TITAN RETURNS: SANCTION LIFTS FROM IRAN AND ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

By CHUNG, Jun-Young, IMPIS student

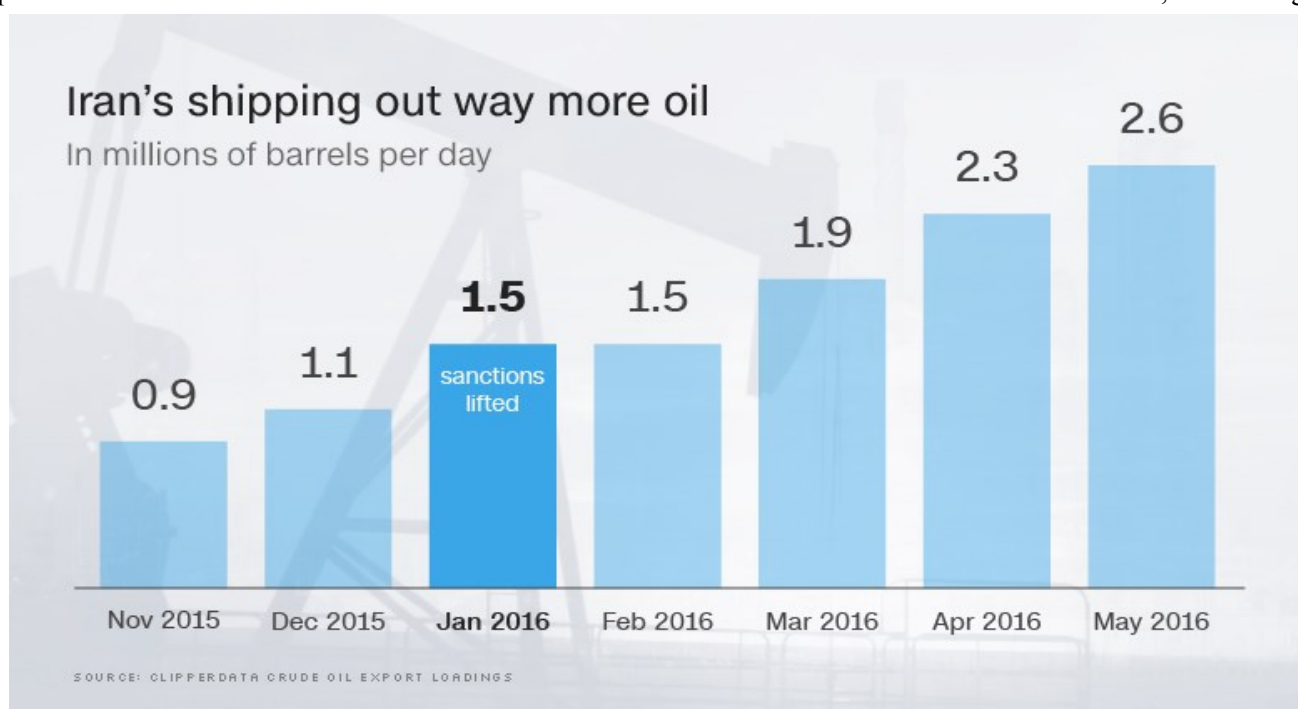
**U**nder the terms of a July 14 accord in 2015 between world powers and Iran, international sanctions imposed on Iran will be lifted in return for restrictions on their nuclear program. This event is monumental in history in the sense that the global powers' attempt to hinder further development of nuclear weapons in Iran since 70's is finally paying off. Despite the celebration of success in the proliferation of nuclear weapons in another threatening state, rapid global preparation for the next steps suggest there are more to this event than mere promotion of peace. Let's look at this from economic and political aspects.

The first and some of the most obvious and notable impacts from the sanction lift come from the economic level. As home to the world's fourth largest proven oil reserves, Iran is preparing to increase its crude oil sales by 800 thousand barrels a day, after sanctions are lifted, and aims for the total exports to reach 2.5 million barrels within the next

year. At current oil prices, this means \$10 billion revenue just from oil exports by next year (Klimainska, Yoon, 2016). But the most dazzling diamond lurks in the financial industry, according to Iran's central banks, \$30 billion frozen foreign reserves will begin to flow again (Paivar, 2016). Its reconnection to the global banking system also means a green light for open investment and trade for the rest of the world. It goes without saying, that the sanctions lift became a huge opportunity for global energy companies and other financial and industrial firms; Iran will be flooded with FDI and there will be stacks of documents signed by interest parties of Iran and the rest of the globe for the next few months

“Rapid global preparation for the next steps suggest there are more to this event than mere promotion of peace”

There is a significant political impact as well, the break of the balance of power in Middle Eastern society. Iraq was the regional hegemon in the 70's. While Iran remained unstable with the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iraq's power steadily rose with the western support to oppose Iran and prevent further expansion of Islamic influences in the Middle East. Iraq seemed to maintain its throne until the sanctions were imposed in the 90's when it decided to invade Kuwait, and its regime



the Gulf War and the Iraq War. The throne of Middle East has remained unoccupied since, and many states even go through chaotic storm of Arab Spring, leaving the region with almost no sense of stable order.

Of course, there was a hidden power behind the curtain: Saudi Arabia. Cozy political and economic relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States allowed Saudi Arabia to maintain its strong regime without causing wars in neighboring states, successfully positioning themselves as the king of the OPEC with their abundant

“The old titan is now back with its shackles cut off, the direct collision of two arch-rivals for the regional hegemony is inevitable.”

oil deposits. Although Saudi Arabia hasn't had diplomatic ties with Iran since January 4th, the old titan is now back with its shackles cut off, the direct collision of two arch-rivals for the regional hegemony is inevitable. This conflict is also significant in terms of socio-religious perspective, as this duel implies the clash of two major denominations of Islam: Shia and Sunni.



© 2016 Jimmy Margulies - All Rights Reserved.

Will the spotlight of international affairs shine upon Middle East for its economic prosperity with invigorating trades, investments and flows of capital or as the regional struggle leads to violence and other events?

As of Jan 4th, Saudi Arabia announced severing its diplomatic ties with Iran.



© Cartoon Rob Roger

## References

- Klimasinska, K., & Yoon, S.W. (2015, September 3). What the Iran deal means for the world economy: think about petroleum, planes, and pistachios. Bloomberg Business. Retrieved from <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-09-03/what-the-iran-deal-means-for-the-world-economy>
- OPEC. (2015). Annual statistical bulletin (50th edition). Retrieved from [http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/static\\_files\\_project/media/downloads/publications/ASB2015.pdf](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/static_files_project/media/downloads/publications/ASB2015.pdf)
- Paivar, A. (2016, January 16). What lifting Iran sanctions means for world markets. BBC News. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35317159>

# AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY - INTERESTS VS. VALUES

## SPEAKER: JUDITH NORTON, VISITING SCHOLAR, TAIWAN FELLOWSHIP

By Andre Baum, Student of the Department of Diplomacy

In her presentation on “American Foreign Policy”, Judith Norton, a visiting scholar of the Taiwan Fellowship program, makes the case that interests are the cornerstone of American foreign relations conduct.

Norton defines “foreign policy” as “the means a country takes to pursue its national interests.” These interests can be divided into three categories, which are:

1. Economic interests
2. Military/Security interests
3. Cultural interests/values

Many prominent scholars such as Anne-Marie Slaughter put a strong emphasis on the importance of values in the international conduct of U.S. authorities.

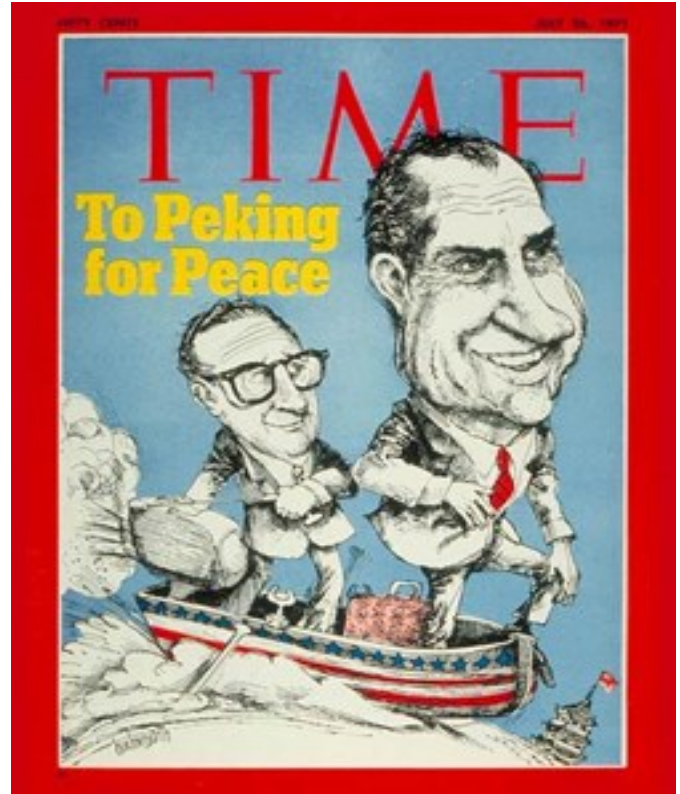
From this point of view, the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the tension with the People's Republic of China etc. are caused by the desire to promote American values such as democracy, personal freedom, and a free and open capitalist market economy.

Judith Norton believes this approach to be flawed. She believes that foreign policy follows a hierarchy of interests, with economic/corporate interests clearly occupying the top spot.

While values are a central aspect of cultural interests, historic evidence proves that values have often been overshadowed by the interests of American corporations.

The U.S. interventions in Iran (1953), Chile (1973), and Guatemala (1954) all ended with the replacement of a democratically elected leader by a pro-U.S. dictator.

**"Judith Norton believes that foreign policy follows a hierarchy of interests, with economic/corporate interests clearly occupying the top spot."**



© Time magazine, July 26, 1971

As Norton points out, all these covert operations served the preferences of the American economy. Iranian efforts to nationalize the oil industry resulting in strong lobbying efforts by big oil companies, pressuring the U.S. government to intervene.

In Guatemala, the American United Fruit company was facing the danger of losing large amounts of land to a national agricultural reform, causing the company to call for U.S. government assistance. Chilean government efforts to nationalize businesses evoked a similar reaction.

Nixon's China policy, which held the opportunity to open up a huge market to American businesses, followed a similar logic. Saddam

Hussein's initiative to decouple oil trade from the U.S. dollar would have significantly hurt the United States currency, providing an explanation for the 2003 inva-

sion.

Considering these historic examples, Ms. Norton views recent foreign policy developments in a different light than many fellow American scholars.

The recent decision of the Obama administration to end the arms embargo against Vietnam, seen by many as a reaction to China's growing assertiveness in the region, can also be traced to a strong interest of American weapons manufacturers to open up new markets for their merchandise.

A capitalist economic system such as the United States is in constant need of expanding to new territories and markets in order to sustain itself. Companies are the main players that drive



U.S. President Richard Nixon meets Communist China's Chairman Mao Zedong in February 1972.

© White House Photo, courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration

"The importance of corporations for the survival of such a capitalist system therefore enables them to significantly influence security-related foreign policy issues."

this expansion. The importance of corporations for the survival of such a capitalist system therefore enables them to significantly influence security-related foreign policy issues. The same logic applies to cultural diplomacy. In her closing remarks, Ms. Norton pointed to the work of Susan Strange, who also focuses on the economic dimension of foreign policy. In Norton's eyes, Strange's research has not yet received the attention it deserves.

In summary, Judith Norton makes the case that values are in fact a part of foreign policy interests. However, due to the importance of economic players for national survival, economic interests dominate U.S. foreign policy decisions, often overshadowing or directly changing security and value-related preferences.



© Jim Morin, cartoonist of the Miami Herald

# COSMIC QUANDARIES: EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF IR AND THE SEARCH FOR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCES.

By Eger III James, IMAS student



© X-ray: NASA/CXC/Univ degli Studi Roma Tre/A.Marinucci et al, Optical: ESO/VLT & NASA/STScI

Universe is a pretty big place. If it's just us, it seems like an awful waste of space."

## So Where is Everyone?

There are numerous major projects currently underway in the search for Extraterrestrial Intelligences. Among these, the SETI Program (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) is the oldest and most prominent, starting back in 1959 as a simple experiment to use radio telescopes from around the world to scan the stars looking for special patterns in radio waves which could have been sent by other civilizations in space. The Search for Extraterrestrial Technology (SETT) is an interesting project designed to search nearby stars and galaxies in the hope of detecting the waste heat generated by a technologically advanced super-civilization.

## Billions and Billions

According to data from the most recent telescopic observations, astronomers tell us that within just our own Milky Way Galaxy, there may be as many as 40 billion Earth-like worlds orbiting around the habitable zones of their stars. Bear in mind, however, that there are hundreds of trillions of other galaxies in the Universe, each one with at least 100 billion stars of its own. Let those numbers and the overwhelming vastness of the Cosmos sink in for just a moment. As Carl Sagan famously said: "The

A small but pioneering team of researchers have also recently hypothesized that some UFOs might actually be extraterrestrial probes, and have begun setting up crowd-funded monitoring stations around the United States in a serious attempt to try and capture hard physical data on alleged flying saucers, like speed, altitude, size, and whether or not they emit any sort of electromagnetic radiation. You can read about it in the Huffington Post:

"A message from a presumably advanced alien race may contain the blueprints for radically new forms of energy based on anti-matter or nuclear fusion"

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/le-slue-kean/very-local-seti-the-launc\\_b\\_8295426.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/le-slue-kean/very-local-seti-the-launc_b_8295426.html)

The launch of the Kepler Space Telescope in 2009, is yet another attempt at finding alien life. Kepler has so far helped discover thousands alien planets beyond our own solar system, or exo-planets. Interestingly, Kepler has made headlines recently over the discovery of a mysterious star, called KIC 8462852, that underwent several periods of unexplained dimming.

After thorough checks for known natural explanations – comets, gas clouds, faulty data – have all come up short, planet hunting astronomers are beginning to consider a rather far-out idea: perhaps this enormous object is the work of an alien civilization setting up some kind of energy-gathering, artificial structure around its home star (a Dyson Sphere, for all you space nerds out there). “Aliens should always be the very last hypothesis you consider, but this looked like something you would expect an alien civilization to build,” Jason Wright, an astronomer from Penn State University said.

Whether or not this anomaly turns out to be the work of aliens, Seth Shostak, Director of the SETI Institute, has boldly predicted that with all these experiments going on, we are likely to detect evidence of an extraterrestrial civilization within the next few decades. But what happens once we do?

"The detection of an alien radio signal immediately poses several major national security concerns."

### First Contact

Assuming that our first contact with an Extraterrestrial Intelligence (ETI) will be the detection of a radio signal sent to us from the stars, as Mr. Shostak believes, one of the first issues that will arise is National Security.

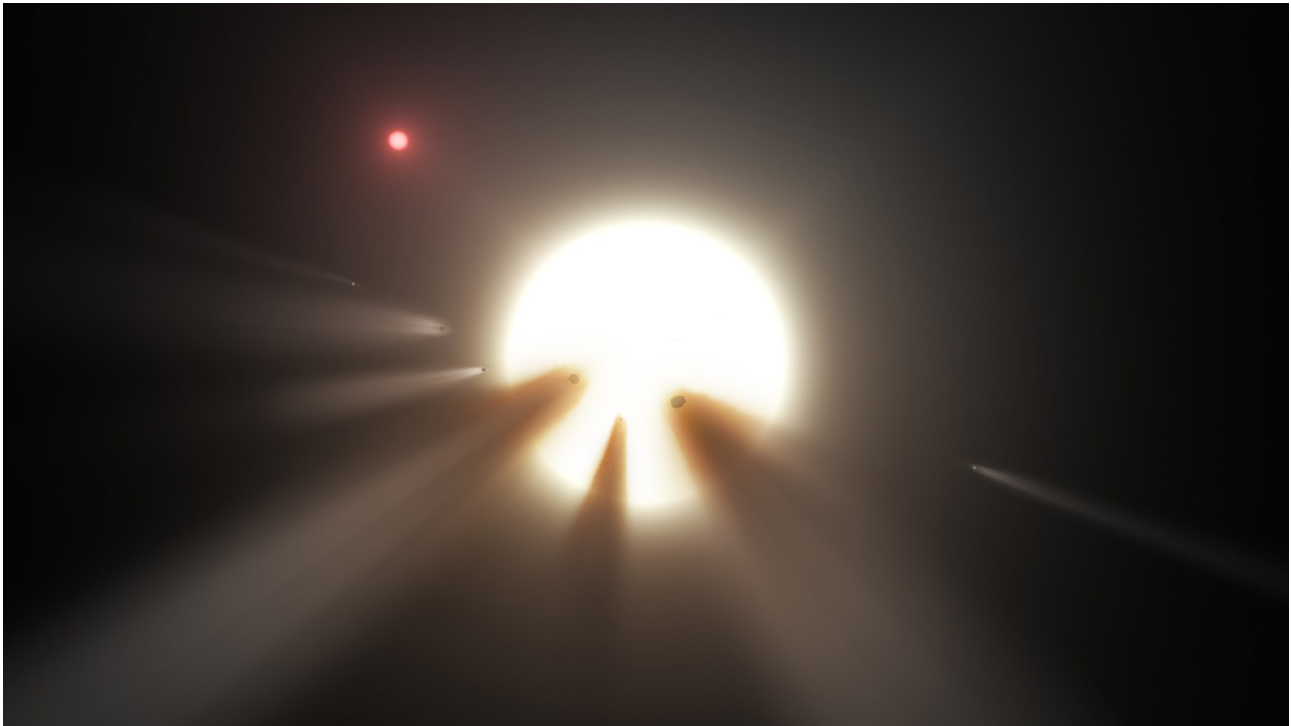
# FAKE RADIO 'WAR' STIRS TERROR THROUGH U.S.



© Photo by New York Daily News Archive via Getty Images

Most astronomers believe that news of radio contact with an extraterrestrial civilization would prove impossible to suppress and would travel world-wide almost immediately, although, one must admit it is easy to imagine the U.S. Defense Department, CIA, or some other nefarious agency attempting to put a lid on it. For example, the Brookings Institution, in collaboration with NASA, issued a report in 1960 titled "Proposed Studies on the Implications of Peaceful Space Activities for Human Affairs."

In a section titled, "The implications of a discovery of extraterrestrial life," the report considers possible post-detection scenarios and recommends for various reasons



Star KIC 8462852

© NASA(slash)JPL-Caltech

(culture shock, psychological trauma, mass hysteria, public panic, terrorism, threats to existing power structures) that it may not be advisable for political leadership to disclose an ETI detection to the public. (It is interesting to note that in 1938, Orson Welles narrated a radio broadcast of the famous H.G. Wells novel "War of the Worlds" as a series of simulated radio bulletins of what was happening in real time as Martians arrived on our home planet. The broadcast is widely remembered for stirring widespread public panic and chaos).

If astronomers are right in that detection cannot be suppressed, this is a problem because a message from a presumably advanced alien race may contain the blueprints for radically new forms of energy based on anti-matter or nuclear fusion, for example.

On the one hand, that's basically free energy, and that knowledge should be available to all nations. But any technology that can be harnessed for energy production can also be used to make new and more powerful weapons. You dispense the knowledge of free energy and you could also inadvertently begin a new arms race. One cannot even share the know-how with friends or

"While holding international consultation before sending a response sounds like a good idea, this document has no regulatory power."

allies without risking it falling into the hands of enemies. We might even expect an escalation in cyberwarfare in an attempt by other powerful nations to pilfer whatever data they can from one another.

We must further consider that the more decipherable the information received from contact with an ETI, the more likely it will instigate violence by reactionaries. For example, extremist groups, both religious and secular, could denounce knowledge from ETI as evil or immoral. This could lead to attempts to terminate radio communication via targeted terrorist attacks. The individual scientists responsible for the discovery may also have their lives threatened by such groups. This was depicted quite well in the film *Contact*, based on Carl Sagan's book by the same name. Post-detection policy-makers must therefore anticipate such scenarios in the formulation of post-detection plans.

So, detection of an alien radio signal, for all the aforementioned reasons, immediately poses several major national security concerns.

### Who Speaks for Earth?

Further problems arise if we consider responding to the signal, such as the degree of involvement of governments foreign to the one whose radio astronomers received the signal. In short, who speaks for Earth?



In order to answer to this question, the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) has drafted the "Declaration of Principles Concerning Activities Following the Detection of Extraterrestrial Intelligence" in an attempt to establish some universal guidelines in the event we do make contact. The document, which has so far been endorsed several leading astronomical organizations, including scientists at SETI Institute, proposes a set of nine post-detection protocols.

The guidelines stipulate not only dissemination of alien signal's contents to the scientific community, the media and the United Nations (which seems quite naïve considering the security risks previously discussed), but also that "No response to a signal or other evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence should be sent until appropriate international consultations have taken place." The guidelines can be read in more detail on SETI Institute's webpage: <http://www.seti.org/post-detection.html>.

While holding international consultation before sending a response sounds like a good idea, this document does not carry the weight of law or and has no regulatory power. Hence it can be, and most

likely will be, ignored by public or private institutions without any legal repercussions. Upon the detection of an alien signal then, world governments may be more likely to pursue their own policies and agendas, potentially giving rise to power struggles as influential state and non-state actors dispute which bodies have the authority to represent humanity as a whole. Meanwhile, private individuals with the resources and know-how to send a response probably will, thus leaving open the question of how and whether these individuals might be prosecuted.

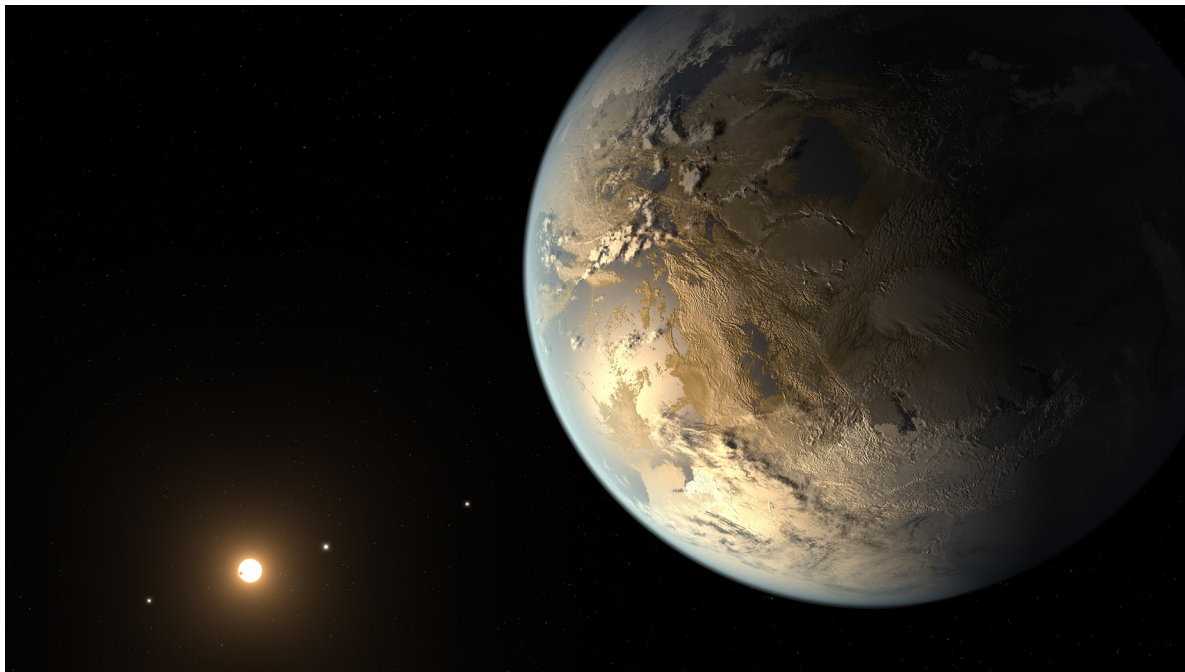
## Conclusion

There are, as yet, no clear answers to many of the dilemmas posed by making contact with our biological brethren in space.

But as unlikely as it may seem, we may have to prepare for first contact sooner than many would believe. What to do if and when it does happen is worth pondering, especially for IR scholars. Of course, we can avoid the problems posed by communicating with extraterrestrials by avoiding the search altogether. Renowned physicist Stephen Hawking suggested that "If you look at history, contact between humans and less intelligent organisms have often been disastrous from their point of view, and encounters between civilizations with advanced versus primitive technologies have gone badly for the less advanced. [An extraterrestrial] civilization ... could be billions of years ahead of us. If so, they will be vastly more powerful, and may not see us as any more valuable than we see bacteria." This, coupled with the other threats to society

posed by contact presented in this article, we may be better off keeping to ourselves in this vast and unknown universe.

"We may be better off keeping to ourselves in this vast and unknown universe."



Astronomers Help Focus Research in the Search for Another Earth  
© NASA

# ABSTRACT FOR TWO TALKS GLOBAL POLICY AND LAW IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

By Dr. TSAI, Feng-Jen, Assistant Professor at TMU

## Global Policy and Law in Infectious Disease Control

**D**riven by advanced technology, international trade and travel, globalization brought the challenges of increasing public health risks to the world, including infectious disease spread. More importantly, the phenomenon that the effort of controlling infectious disease control is beyond one country's capacity raised the need of international collaboration. After SARS pandemic in 2003, International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR 2005) was adopted by World Health Organization (WHO) in 2005 with the intention to strengthen international cooperation for infectious disease control. As a new instrument of global health governance, IHR 2005 not only expanded the scope of infectious disease to "public health emergency of international concern", but also created obligations of members to develop minimum core surveillance and response capabilities. In addition, IHR 2005 authorized and empowered WHO to use information and declare the existence of the pandemic. However, Indonesia's decision of withholding H5N1 virus samples from WHO in the end



The movement of people around the globe, depicted here in a map of air traffic among the 500 largest international airports, can lead to the rapid spread of infectious disease.  
©L. Hufnagle, D. Brockmann, and T. Geisel. 2004 National Academy of Sciences.

“As a new instrument of global health governance, IHR 2005 not only expanded the scope of infectious disease to ‘public health emergency of international concern’, but also created obligations of members to develop minimum core surveillance and response capabilities. “

of 2006 represented the ineffectiveness of IHR 2005 and the concern of global inequity. Based on the claim of “sovereignty” over the viruses, Indonesia insisted that it would not share viruses unless mechanism for benefiting sharing existed. And the conflict regarding virus sharing also showed the nature of global health as foreign policy. Further negotiation for an equitable

access to virus and benefits led to a new global regulation as Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework-for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits (PIP Framework) in 2011. The objective of this

regulation is to “improve pandemic influenza preparedness and response, and strengthen the protection against the pandemic influenza by improving and strengthening the WHO global influenza surveillance and response system (“WHO GISRS”), with the objective of a fair, transparent, equitable, efficient, effective system for, on an equal footing: (i) the sharing of H5N1 and other influenza viruses with human pandemic potential; and (ii) access to vaccines and sharing of other benefits.” By establishing two standard contracts for sharing virus within and outside WHO GISRS, private sector was introduced into the global health system. While the approach of PIP Framework is based on the design of Public-Private Partnership (PPP), the role of private sector- especially multinational pharmaceutical companies

## Global Trade, Law and Health

Historically, the relationship between trade and health started from infectious disease spread through trade road. And the focus between trade and health is on protecting health for trade. But after World War II, the global focus of health decreased with the fact that the disease pattern in developed countries transferred from infectious disease to chronic disease. And the importance of trade increased that the World Trade Organization (named as GATT before) established in 1995. Based on the design of using international trade regulations as rules, the WTO played the role as principle holder of global trade. Different with World Health Organization, WTO also had Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to deal with trade conflict between countries. In

1980s, South Africa and Brazil government filed Compulsory licence to against the patent right of pharmaceutical companies for protecting AIDS patient's right of accessing to medicine. The conflict between trade and health led to a joint study of WTO and WHO entitled "World Trade Agreements and Public Health" in 2002. The report classified 8 field which involving both concerns from trade and health: infectious disease, food safety, tobacco control, environmental protection, access to medicine and vaccine, health care and service, food safety and nutrition and emerging issues. And the trade regulations involved included General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and Trade in Services (GATS). And the report argued the global and domestic needs of trade and health policy coherence. Recently, global attention on trade and health focused on plain package policy for tobacco control and its potential of violating global trade regulations. In 2011, Australia issued the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011 which required all the tobacco sale in Australia to be plain packaged with strict restriction of information played on the box. Tobacco company then sued the Australia government for its violation of constitution. In addition, tobacco company brought the case to WTO and claimed that Australia's tobacco control law violated the TRIPs and TBT regulation. While the final ruling of the case represented an important judgement of interaction between trade and health policy, Taiwan also jointed the legal war as the third party. The development between trade and health represented a theme that "global health as foreign policy". While trend in foreign policy showed the phenomenon that the domestic and foreign policies were blurred, the need of interagency cooperation and the trend of transgovernmentalism became more important than before. And the policy coherence between trade and health in domestic level and global level will be the challenges for countries in the future.

“Recently, global attention on trade and health focused on plain package policy for tobacco control and its potential of violating global trade regulations.”



© ASH

Vol. 1 Autumn 2016

Published by



**DIRECTOR**

Dr. LU, Yeh-Chung

**MANAGER & EDITOR**

WEI, Chi-Hui Chafie

**DESIGNER**

TRAVERSO, Miriam

**COORDINATOR**

HSU, Kai-Fen

**STAFF EDITOR**

CHUNG, Jun Young

NORBY, Grant

TEPTARAKUNKARN, Sunisa

**WRITER**

Dr. TSAI, Feng-Jen

BAUM, Andre

CHUNG, Jun Young

JAMES, Eger III

**International Master's Program  
in International Studies  
National Chengchi University**

11F General Building N. Wing  
64, Section 2, Zhinan Street  
Wenshan District, 116  
Taipei City, Taiwan

Tel.: 886-2-29393091 Ext. 51112

Fax: 886-2-29387886

E-mail: [impis@nccu.edu.tw](mailto:impis@nccu.edu.tw)

Website: <http://impis.nccu.edu.tw>

*All the pictures are labeled  
for noncommercial reuse  
or anonymous sources.*

## IMPIS ACTIVITIES

2016 May

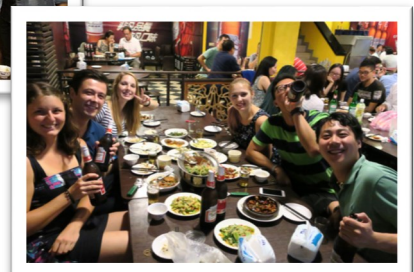
IMPIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

A World in Transformation: Conflict and Development



2016 June

IMPIS FAREWELL  
PARTY



2016 September

2016/17 IMPIS ORIENTATION

