



KOBE UNIVERSITY

The International Mini-Conference for System Theory and Social Science



Nicolaas Buitendag
(North-West University, South Africa)
Cartography, Knowledge, Power

Kim Dong-Hyu
(University of Glasgow, UK)
Paradox of Standards and Innovation
from the perspective of Niklas Luhmann



F153, Tsurukabuto Campus 2,
Kobe University



Registration:
<https://forms.gle/tWa9LhwbsjpaE3Ez9>



11 June, 2024
9:30 am

Moderator: Kosuke Sakai
(Kobe University)

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Human Development and Environment, Kobe University

Abstract

Nicolaas Buitendag (North-West University, South Africa)

Cartography, Knowledge, Power

This presentation explores the pivotal role of cartography in shaping international law and politics, arguing that maps do not merely reflect geopolitical realities but actively construct them. A multidisciplinary approach incorporating systems theory and actor-network theory will examine how maps have historically influenced the establishment of sovereign states and impacted international relations. The paper traces the evolution of cartography from its early commissioned roles by states to entrench sovereignty through its significant role in treaties from the Peace of Westphalia to the Vienna Congress to modern post-colonial conflicts. The study reveals that international law, politics, and cartography are entwined, perpetuating historical and contemporary legal challenges. A reevaluation of the cartographic underpinnings of international law to address these issues effectively is proposed, suggesting that breaking free from the traditional cartographic imaginaries could lead to more nuanced understandings and resolutions in international law. This work contributes to understanding the materiality and influence of scientific objects, like maps, in the legal and political arenas, advocating for a reimagined approach to international legal structures.

Dong-Hyu, Kim (University of Glasgow, UK)

Paradox of Standards and Innovation from the perspective of Niklas Luhmann

The research explores the paradox concerning standards and innovation, examining inquiries about how standards can both foster and hinder innovation concurrently. It expands on the sources of this paradox, such as the simultaneous occurrence of complexity reduction/increase and the tension between old and new. Additionally, it discusses how modern standardisation systems manage this dilemma through dynamic stability and stylisation.