

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Fifth Annual AIB Conference on Emerging Research Frontiers in International Business

Theme: Conflict, Security and Political Risk: International Business in a Challenging Environment

Venue: Sonesta Hotel, Coconut Grove (Miami), Florida, USA and Florida International University

Local Arrangements: Mary Ann Von Glinow, FIU CIBER and Silvia Salas

Dates: November 28-December 1, 2007

Extended Deadline for Submission of Proposals for papers & panels: August 9, 2007 (2-3 page summaries of papers)

Invitations to be issued by September 7, 2007

Program Committee:

Professors Mary Ann Von Glinow (Florida Int'l U), Ethan Kapstein (INSEAD), Steve Kobrin (Wharton), Robert Weiner (George Washington U), Lorraine Eden (Texas A&M U) Ex Officio and Arie Y. Lewin (Duke U) Ex Officio

A “brave new world” in which diplomatic, civil, and military conflicts (conventional as well as unconventional) have greater reach and immediacy presents evolving challenges for international trade and investment. Civil wars, terrorist attacks, narco and human trafficking and laundered funds across borders create new sources of political risk. At the same time, more traditional topics in IB research, such as MNE-state relations, have taken on new dimensions with the revival of economic nationalism in countries such as Russia, Bolivia and Venezuela. As a result, concepts such as “liability of foreignness” may take on a very different cast. The focus of this conference is research on the issues facing firms in an uncertain world where traditional boundaries between “international relations” and “international business” have blurred.

This new world presents opportunities as well as challenges for international business. Defense contractors are in harm's way on the battlefield, raising international HR issues. Provision of security services is a booming worldwide industry. Political-risk and emergency-management consultancies are seeing increased demand for their services at the same time that experts in these areas are sought by firms operating in insecure regions. While the death knell of economic sanctions was tolled with the onset of the invasion of Iraq, the announcement of their demise may be premature. If Iran and North Korea continue with their nuclear programs, policy makers could once again look to the implementation of economic sanctions to deter states' continued progress towards nuclear armament.

The relationship between international business and diplomatic, military and political-economic conflict is complex and multi-directional. While multinational firms certainly feel the impacts of operating in a riskier and more dangerous environment, international business itself may cause or exacerbate conflicts by providing financial networks for laundering and channeling funds to organizations pursuing illicit or violent activities. International trade in natural resources has both fueled regional conflicts (e.g., diamonds in Africa or oil in Sudan) and strained international relations – e.g., “resource nationalism” such as Russia’s energy policies toward CIS countries and Western Europe.

It appears we have moved out of the “eye of the storm” into a new and more conflictual period for multinational enterprises, as Vernon predicted in his 1998 book, *In the Hurricane’s Eye*. In this more turbulent environment, new efforts are needed to understand the role of international business in areas such as conflict, crisis management, regional security, and terrorism. There is a need to link scholars in schools of international affairs and international relations that focus on security studies and conflict analysis with scholars of international business to come up with new insights that reflect the role of international business in a rapidly changing, more unstable and conflict-ridden international security environment.

We seek papers on such topics as

- The role of international business (including trade and investment) in military conflicts
- The impact of potential economic sanctions on the coordination and configuration strategies of global companies
- The relationship between political and diplomatic disputes and international business activity
- The impact of terrorism and threats of terrorism on international business
- The relationship between international trade and investment and terrorism
- The analysis and management of the political risks arising from the new security environment
- The impact of resource nationalism and energy security on international business relations
- The role of, and risks posed to, international business in ethnic, sectarian and religious conflict
- The responsibilities of multinational firms in failed states
- The human rights responsibilities of multinational firms
- The contributions multinational forms can make to the management of humanitarian emergencies
- The relative roles of the private sector and NGOs in peace operations
- The relationship between national security, information and communication technology, and international business
- The ethical responsibilities of multinational firms in war and conflict situations

This list is merely suggestive of the range of topics appropriate for the Frontiers Conference, which ideally seeks inputs from scholars across a number of disciplines related to conducting business in a less secure, more risky, conflict-ridden world.

Submissions and Review Process

Proposals for panels and or papers must be **submitted by August 9, 2007**, and authors will be notified of the **decision by September 7, 2007**. Panel proposals should include names of panelists and their personal notes to attend, should the panel be accepted. Submissions should be sent to Stefanie McAdoo (smcadoo@duke.edu) at Duke University, Fuqua School of Business. The submission should be marked as the 5th Annual AIB Emerging Research Frontiers Conference in International Business, 2007. Submissions should consist of a 2-3 page summary of the proposed paper or panel.

The Program Committee will review all papers and proposals. For further information regarding the nature and structure of the 2007 Frontiers Conference in International Business, please contact the following:

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