

## **Exporting Nordic goodness: critical perspectives on the ‘humanitarian superpowers’**

Convener:

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Impressed by the Nordic states’ seemingly exceptional support for decolonisation, high levels of foreign development aid, and conflict mediation and peacekeeping efforts, scholars have described the Nordic states as ‘moral superpowers’, ‘agents of the world common good’, ‘global good samaritans’ or simply ‘good states’. However, while Nordic policymakers have been pleased to mobilize these flattering epithets in support of their foreign policies, a growing body of research questions the veracity of the claims to Nordic exceptionalism or scrutinize precisely how political actors utilize this normative discourse to inflate their political capital. Seeking to expand this latter literature, we invite papers that address the notion of the Nordic states as a model for others to follow, as exceptional providers of aid and assistance, exporting their domestic experiences to poor countries far away. We seek papers that address Nordic efforts to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, aid and development policies or humanitarian assistance, or conflict mediation and peacekeeping; how Nordic states link these efforts to other, less altruistic foreign policy goals, e.g. trade or security; and/or how the states and societies that are on the receiving end of these Nordic normative exports have reacted and responded.