

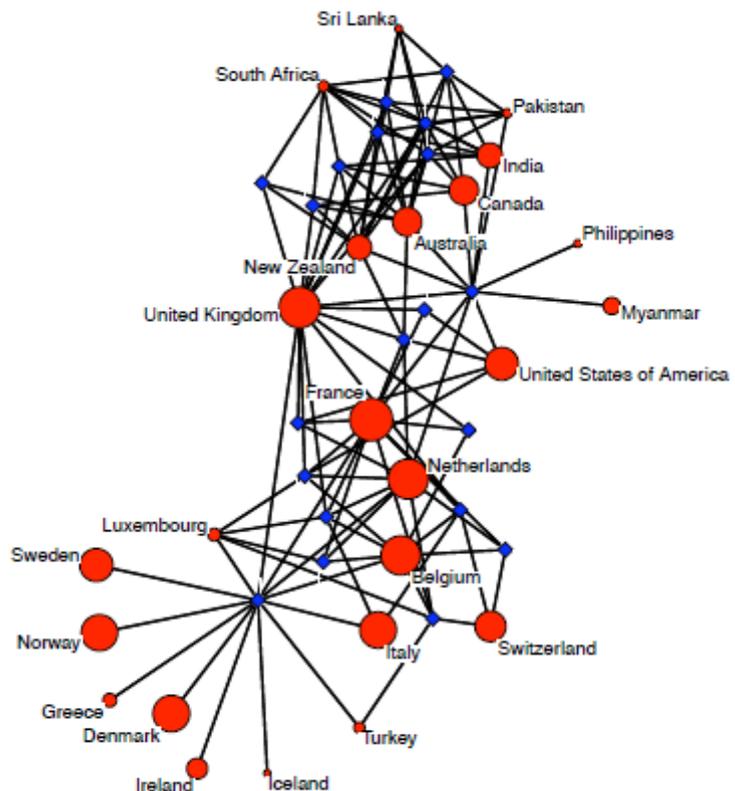
## PO5007 Graduate Seminar in International Co-operation and Conflict

Frank Häge; Room: FI-019; Tel: +353-61-234897; [frank.haege@ul.ie](mailto:frank.haege@ul.ie)

### Aims and Objectives

The module is designed to familiarise students with the following issues and themes:

- Major theoretical approaches in the study of International Relations
- Functions and decision-making structures of international governmental organizations
- Empirical research on current topics in International Relations, including the role of trust for international cooperation, the democratic peace thesis, and international terrorism
- Criteria for judging the validity of theoretical arguments and the quality of empirical work
- Formal tools for theory building and data analysis that are commonly used in International Relations research



**Network of international organizations and states in 1950**  
(Source: Hafner-Burton & Montgomery 2010)

### Contents

The aim of this module is to develop students' understanding of the theories and methods used to empirically study research questions in International Relations. The first part of the module reviews major theoretical approaches and introduces students to different types of formal methods. Knowledge of prevailing theories and a basic understanding of game theory and quantitative methods will help to competently assess the literature discussed in the second and third part of the module. The second part of the module deals with the functions and decision-making structures of international organizations, especially the United Nations and the European Union. The third part of the module discusses a selection of current topics in International Relations research. These topics include the role of trust for international cooperation, the democratic peace thesis, and the causes of international terrorism.

### Core Readings

Two or three articles or book chapters will be set as core reading for each session. The following books are excellent preparatory texts for the module and recommended as introductory or background reading:

- Sobek, David (2009) *The Causes of War*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Levy, Jack S., and William R. Thompson (2010) *Causes of War*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.