

# Welcome (Back) To the Ivory Tower

Written by Dillon Tatum

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<https://www.e-ir.info/2018/06/22/welcome-back-to-the-ivory-tower/>

DILLON TATUM, JUN 22 2018

Taking over the reins of a high-quality blog is an exciting endeavor. I would like to welcome readers back to “Ivory Tower” by laying out new directions, and enumerating the themes, topics, and content that we will be exploring on “Ivory Tower”.

In a world where the academy has become increasingly professionalized, where teaching is becoming increasingly central to the work that professors do, and where conversations about marginalization and (in)justice in the academy are needed, “Ivory Tower” seeks to provide a forum for instructors of international relations (broadly defined) to create dialogue, provide practical and intellectual support, and forwarding the enterprise of international relations through advice and reflection on teaching, research, and service.

Five questions stand out to me as worth further exploration in this forum:

- ***What are some practical strategies for engaging students and the broader community in the study of IR?***
- ***What are the struggles and processes of the actual conduct of research in the field of IR?***
- ***How can research, teaching, and service integrate in productive ways for the field of IR?***
- ***How do the unique experiences of students and instructors affect the development of the field of IR, the quality of education, equality in the academy, and the reach of public engagement?***
- ***How is our teaching, research, and service connected to concerns with transformation and social justice?***

As a collaborative blog, “Ivory Tower” welcomes submissions and pitches for articles that might engage with these questions, or with broader issues related to the way that IR is taught, researched, or applied on campuses and in communities. Please contact [dtatum@fmarion.edu](mailto:dtatum@fmarion.edu) for more information on how you might contribute to the conversation.

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### About the author:

**Dillon Stone Tatum** is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and Geography at Francis Marion University. His research and teaching interests are in international relations theory, the history of liberal internationalism, and critical security studies.