



Matthew Breay Bolton

Imagining Disarmament, Enchanting International Relations

- Offers a defense of an enchanted, qualitative and discursive approach to IR theory and practice at a time when quantitative and positivist approaches are becoming increasingly entrenched
- Shows how advocacy organizations and small states can influence the international political agenda on security issues through exercising discursive and symbolic power
- Reveals the political agency of actors often overlooked in the analysis of international security, including advocacy organizations, small island states and activists

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This book explores the global politics of disarmament through emerging international relations (IR) theories of discourse and imagination. Each chapter reflects on an aspect of contemporary activism on weapons through an analogous story from literary tradition. Shahrazade, convenor of the 1001 Nights, offers a potent metaphor for the humanitarian advocacy seeking to moderate the behaviour of violent people. The author reads Don Quixote in Cambodia's minefields, reflects on Lysistrata at Greenham Common and considers how tropes in *The Tempest* were enrolled in both Pacific nuclear testing and efforts to resist it. The book draws on ethnographic fieldwork in communities affected by weapons and disarmament advocacy at the UN and calls for a re-enchantment of IR, alive to affect, ritual and myth.

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