

Abstracts

Jürgen Rüland

»Thick« and »Lean« Institutionalization

The Impact of Globalization and the Asian Financial Crisis
on the »New Regionalism«

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Globalization has not only created conflict, but also new forms of international order. It has given rise to a multi-layered system of global governance which is characterized by increasing functional and spatial differentiation. Much of this differentiation has occurred at the regional level. However, the majority of organizations formed under the auspices of what is known as »New Regionalism« is characterized by soft law and a rather lean institutionalization. This begs the question of how effective these regional organizations are. The article challenges recent findings which contend that regional organizations with lean institutions display a better performance as crises managers. It argues that regional organizations exhibit variance in terms of crisis management capacities as well as institutionalization. Thus, institutionalization is at best a necessary condition to explain their response to crises. The relationship between opportunity and governance costs, which is further influenced by a number of context factors is a more important determinant.

Matthias Ecker-Erhardt

Mere Rhetoric?

The Ideational Fore- and Background in the German Debate on
the EU-Eastern Enlargement

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The paper focuses on »authentic« versus »rhetoric« arguing in the German »attentive public« on the Eastern enlargement of the European Union. The analysis combines insights from two separate studies: a survey on opinions of the German »positional elite« and a content analysis using parliamentary speeches and newspaper editorials. Two striking features of the debate are discussed: the high degree of consensus about the enlargement as such and normative grounds with reference to consequences for the applicant societies. The results show a remarkable degree of correspondence between the linguistic foreground and the cognitive background with respect to relevant norms. The common sense belief of the pure rhetorical character of normative arguments in political debates in general, the German discourse on the eastern enlargement in particular seems to be exaggerated. Nonetheless, the publicly claimed responsibility towards the applicant societies seems not to be authentically

grounded in an »ethic of responsibility« (Verantwortungsethik) of normative beliefs and positive expectations for those societies.

Frank Wendler

New Legitimation Sources for Europe?

Patterns of Associative Democracy in the Field of EU Social Policy

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The article analyzes how different elements of associative democracy can contribute to the democratic legitimacy of governance in the field of EU Social Policy. Three approaches to this model are distinguished – participatory approaches, concepts related to the establishment of accountability mechanisms, and models of deliberative democracy. Applying these different concepts to the European-level »Social Dialogue« in this policy-field, it will be shown that gains in participation remain rather limited while accountability mechanisms are even weakened. Only deliberative procedures are able to make a positive contribution to the legitimization of decision-making. Due to trade-offs that exist between the different forms of legitimization the overall effect of the inclusion of organized interests remains limited. In conclusion, stronger attention should be directed to the distinction between different modes of legitimization, and the avoidance of frictions and trade-offs between them.

Christoph Görg

The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy of »World Society«

On the Inherent Tensions of a Sociology of »World Society«

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Recent debates on the concept of »world society« usually center around the question whether the concept of society could and should be applied to the global level in terms of identifying a »world society«. The article attempts to demonstrate that those debates suffer from contradictions in terms (Aporien) which are grounded in the concept of society itself. Those contradictions related to questions of territorial identity and the nation-state on the one hand and the existence of cultural meaning-systems and types of self-regulation on the other are discussed with regard to the specific new phenomena that the concept of world society usually carries with it. As will be shown, the evidence of certain kinds of global society-formation (Vergesellschaftung) is not sufficient to justify the use of the term »society« as only *one* and furthermore *encompassing* entity.

Martin Beck

On Theoretical Deserts, Oases, and Caravans

The Middle East in International Relations

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In comparison to other world regions, the discipline of international relations has neglected the Middle East to a remarkably high degree. Yet, the theoretical desert is infiltrated with fruitful oases many of which, however, are isolated from each other. Firstly, this article aims at identifying those oases. That task will be performed on the basis of five established schools of thought in international relations, i.e. realism, institutionalism, liberalism, globalism, and constructivism. Thereby, the strengths and weaknesses of these schools of thought shall be examined for a better understanding of the main structures and events of Middle Eastern international politics in the twentieth century. Secondly, the article attempts to identify and remedy deficits that in some cases occur if an analysis is based solely on one school of thought. In other words: caravans shall be dispatched in order to connect the oases with one another.

Andreas Hasenclever

Moving Ahead

Recent Findings in Quantitative Research on Armed Conflicts

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Quantitative research on international as well as civil war has made considerable progress over the last decade. In the first section, the paper reviews the booming literature on international war. It demonstrates that important correlates of peace and conflict between states have been identified. Most important, the likelihood of war decreases with robust power asymmetries, growing economic interdependencies and high levels of international organization. Conversely, the probability of large-scale political violence increases when territorial conflicts occur between rivals that are roughly equal in power. In the second section, the paper highlights recent findings from research on international as well as civil wars to demonstrate that liberal approaches are about to outperform systemic analyses in security studies. Finally, it will be argued that the importance of strategic choices should not be underestimated even in the so-called »New Civil Wars« which are often characterized as highly irrational.

Cornelia Ulbert/Anja Jetschke

Assuring and Improving the Quality of Teaching International Relations

A Workshop Report

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The article presents the results of a workshop on »Supply and Demand in Teaching IR at Universities«. The workshop focused on the problem of how to teach IR in a way that takes into consideration the different demands of future school teachers, scientists or practitioners within the German university system, which sometimes requires them to take only one international relations course during the undergraduate curriculum. To assure a certain comparable standard of quality of their training on the one hand and to contribute to improving the quality of teaching on the other, participants regarded two topics as critically important: The question of establishing a core curriculum in IR at German universities, and of conveying IR theory in more stimulating ways. The report presents five approaches to teaching IR and describes several proposals for projects which are designed to enable university teachers to receive a more systematic and continuous didactic training.