

Abstracts

Jürgen Neyer

Political Authority in Non-Hierarchical Multi-Level Systems

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The empirical reality of international relations in the OECD-world escapes the traditional dichotomy of anarchy versus hierarchy. To take complex interdependencies, network structures and rights-based discourses seriously, a new heuristic is needed that focuses on the conditions of governance beyond the state. The article develops such a heuristic by viewing the domestic, the transnational and the international level of politics as parts of one integrated heterarchical political structure. In its second part, the article develops a communicative understanding of power and tests its heuristic value against a set of most dissimilar cases. The article concludes with an analysis of the scope, the conditions and the limits of political authority in multi-level systems.

Hans-Jürgen Bieling/Jochen Steinhilber

Financial Market Integration and Corporate Governance in the European Union

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A while ago, it seemed as if the process of European market and monetary integration was almost completed. However, the transition towards an »information-based shareholder economy«, and particularly the initiatives to establish an integrated European financial market indicate that economic integration has not yet reached its limits. Under the terms of an integrated financial market the transformation of the mode of socio-economic and politico-regulative reproduction is rather accelerating. From a theoretical point of view this development is interesting insofar as recent initiatives signal the emergence of a new political project, like the EC Single Market or Economic and Monetary Union before. The transition towards an »information-based shareholder economy« thereby rests upon a relatively broad consensus, which is shaped by a transnational co-ordination discourse. However, despite converging interests and negotiated compromises, the process of financial market integration does not develop without frictions. At least partially, changes in the socio-economic and politico-regulative mode of reproduction generate intergovernmental conflicts and social resistance.

Andreas Hasenclever

The Democratic Peace meets International Institutions

Reflections on the International Organisation of the Democratic Peace

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In International Relations, the Democratic Peace as a liberal research program and the systemic analysis of international institutions have remained unconnected. This article strives at overcoming the non-communication between the two fields of study. Quantitative analysis of interstate wars found that conflict escalation follows identifiable pathways which are related to the issues under contention, the strategies used by the parties, and the overall relationship between them. The article argues that inter-democratic institutions are particularly suited, (1) to regulate security conflicts and to further international stability, (2) to reduce incentives for bullying strategies and to advance co-operation, and (3) to inhibit the polarisation of international relations and to increase issue-area autonomy. Inter-democratic institutions, therefore, tend to block conflict escalation and minimise the risk of violent interactions between democracies. Analytically, they are conceptualised as intervening variables on a systemic level that relate the democratic characteristics of states to the absence of war between them.

Klaus Schlichte

Something New about War?

A few Remarks about the State of the War Studies in International Relations

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Quantitative research on the development of war after 1945 has led to a limited agreement: Organised mass violence in this period is dominated by intrastate warfare in so-called Third World regions, not by wars between states. The author analyses some major ways of interpretation and explanation of these findings by reviewing recent major publications. In the concluding section, some promising objectives for future research will be laid out.

Tanja Hitzel-Cassagnes

Waiting for Godot

Comments on Conceptualising Modes of Communication and Types of Action

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The essay critically reviews the attempt to conceptualise »modes of communication« and »types of action« as recently presented by Katharina Holzinger in this journal. In reconstructing and rearranging the terminological and theoretical debates about »arguing« and »bargaining«, Katharina Holzinger hopes to arrive at a more appropriate and feasible analytical design which avoids false and misleading dichotomy.

tomies that she perceives as all-pervasive in those debates. In reaction to this approach the criticism is raised that the review and the hermeneutic analysis of discourse theory in particular result in several conceptual confusions which render it impossible to detect and distil the heuristic capacities of discourse theory for empirical analyses in IR. It is argued here, instead, that discourse theory can substantially contribute to our analytical understanding and application of »modes of communication« and »types of action«.