Abstracts

Andreas Vasilache
Executive Governmentality and the Administrative Mainstreaming of International Politics

Foucault's rejection of concepts from state theory has complicated and narrowed the existing reference to his works in International Relations. This article further substantiates the analytical as well as critical potential of Foucault's theory of governmentality in transborder politics by demonstrating the usefulness of the governmentality approach beyond narrow Foucault-discourses. In a first step, it will be shown that Foucault's governmentality approach refers to state theory and in particular corresponds to the structure of executive authority within the logics of the separation of powers. Subsequently, the possible contribution of such an integrative approach to the understanding of the administrative (re-)shaping of transboundary politics will be demonstrated. Thereby, the empirical field will be outlined, in which a concept of executive governmentality can be fruitful. Finally, in the third section, questions and problems from the field of security policy will be discussed from this conceptual angle. This assessment of selected empirical examples and political trends exemplifies the problem of an administrative mainstreaming of politics.

Keywords: security, foucault, theory of ir, state theory, executive politics.

Diana Panke
Activists and Fence-Sitters
The Negotiation Activities of the 27 Member-States in the European Union
The Metaphorical Construction of Terrorism in the Media

Most of EU secondary law is created in working parties of the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Yet, not all states participate equally active in these settings. A survey shows that the average frequency to which states use negotiation strategies (e.g. arguing, bargaining, lobbying) varies considerably. There are activists and rather passive fence-sitters. This is puzzling, since the active usage of negotiation strategies is essential for negotiation success. Thus, this paper tests a series of capacity and willingness hypotheses to explain differences in the activity levels between states. It shows that states are the more frequently using negotiation strategies, the higher the political effectiveness, the longer they are members of the EU and the more preferences they have at stake. Horizontal or vertical

veto-players, by contrast, do not reduce the activity levels of federal states, such as Belgium, or states with Parliaments with strong EU-scrutiny competencies, such as Denmark.

Tobias Böhmelt/Ulrich H. Pilster
On Problems of Collective Action
A Quantitative Study of International Environmental Regimes

Various studies argue that larger groups are less likely to optimally provide a collective good. The following paper builds upon this work as it examines the provision of environmental collective goods through international regimes. Although the regime literature studied problems of collective action and their respective solutions before, we lack the knowledge to explain which situational characteristics actually induce these problems. The following article thus first disaggregates these characteristics along demand-side properties of goods (i.e., public goods, externalities, and common pool resources) and group size, and then analyzes their impact on international environmental regimes' depth of cooperation. The authors find evidence that larger regimes face problems for providing environmental public goods in an optimal way. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates that this negative relationship holds true for externalities, but not for common pool resources.

Martin Nonhoff
Constructivist-pragmatic Methodology
Arguing the Case for Discourse Analysis

This article gives an overview of constructivist methodology. It argues that constructivist thinking requests a pragmatic as well as an interpretive understanding of methods. First, it demands a pragmatic understanding because constructivists view the function of methods first and foremost in their ability to enhance the praxis of cooperative production of scientific knowledge, aiming at plausible, relevant and interesting results. Therefore, it is necessary to reflect on one's usage of methods in a systematic, exact and clear manner. This is, however, not equivalent with a streamlined usage of standardized methods. Secondly, the understanding of methods of this article can be called interpretive because it is well aware of the fact that it is impossible to gain

immediate access to the world. Hence, linguistic and other representations of the world are of central interest. Discourse analysis is then portrayed as a field of social science (and particularly IR) research within which central ideas of a constructivist-pragmatic methodology are used and which develops different paths for interpretive analysis.

Keywords: pragmatic methodology in the social sciences, discourse analysis, ir-constructivism, foucault, hegemony.

As with all social sciences, empirical research in International Relations has to be systematic and transparent for others to verify our results. Social science methods are an important tool for this endeavor. In order not to lag behind the high-quality of international research, German IR researchers need to engage more in the state of the art of social science research methods. Good knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods is increasingly important for junior researchers. Following the criteria of social science research can help to improve the quality of our research and make our results transparent for others. With regard to transparent and systematic research, qualitative researchers can still improve. The standard of replication can provide guidance in this respect.

Keywords: international relations, social science methods, transparency, systematic research, replication.

This article argues for a problem-orientation and method pluralism in both IR research and teaching. This requires simultaneously a strengthening (of method competencies) and weakening (of exclusive truth claims of some methods) of method questions to further professionalize IR. In addition, the article analyzes the publication patterns of the *Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen*. It finds that there has been a significant increase of both the share of empirical research reflecting on its methods and of, in particular, theory-based case studies and quantitative analyses – without sidelining neither theory-oriented articles nor the use of other methods. This article then elaborates on the centrality of the choice and relevance of research questions, proposes a

typology of those, and discusses both the importance of methods in IR in general and the relationship between theory, research object and method in particular.

Benjamin Herborth
Against the Fetishization of Method

The common distinction between quantitative and qualitative methods conceals that crucial questions of how subject matter, theory, and method relate to each other can be addressed only at the level of logics of inquiry. The article thus introduces the distinction between a logic of reconstruction and a logic of subsumtion, commonly used in social-scientific hermeneutics, in order to highlight that questions of method and methodology are never purely technical in nature but implicitly incorporate an operative social theory. Against the artificial separation of theory, subject matter and method along the lines of the unity of science proposition the contribution builds on a reconstructive logic of inquiry in order to demonstrate that substantive research cannot be reduced to single empirical research projects but necessarily involves the theoretical challenge of constituting the domain of inquiry in the first place.