

Abstracts

Ulrich Roos

German Foreign Policy since Unification

Between Idealism and Realism

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The issue of continuity and/or change in Germany's foreign policy turns out to be a recurring theme of scientific debate. The article at hand presents the findings of a long-standing research project concerning that question. By contrasting these findings with competing interpretations, an ongoing process of de-idealization and disillusionment accompanied by an increasing influence of classical realist thought becomes visible as a key-property of Germany's foreign policy. At the outset the article presents the project's research design as well as its theoretical foundation.

Keywords: german foreign policy, international relations, reconstructive methods, grounded theory, pragmatism.

Simon Koschut

Peaceful Change Without Democracy?

Theoretical and Empirical Thoughts on the Formation of Autocratic Security Communities

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Some scholars have claimed that democratic regime type needs to be treated as a necessary precondition for the formation of a pluralistic security community. This essay argues that one should not overestimate the explanatory power of linking the Democratic Peace proposition to the study of security communities. Democratic values, norms, institutions, and practices may certainly facilitate the formation of a security community but it is by no means the only or even most plausible path to assure dependable expectations of peaceful change. While a number of authors have of late made similar claims, what is not settled is why non-democracies can form security communities. The findings in this essay advance scholarship on this issue by showing that similar causal logics commonly attributed exclusively to democratic security community formation are also present in the formation of non-democratic security communities. At the same time, however, there are differences that suggest greater instability in non-democratic security communities. The study

adds empirical evidence to this argument by developing a historical case study of the Sino-Soviet relationship.

Keywords: democracy, security communities, peace, autocracy, democratic peace theory.

Charlotte Dany

Ambivalences of Participation

Limits of NGO Influence at the World Summit on the Information Society
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Since the 1990s, the increased participation of non-state actors in international organizations and global governance processes has usually been analyzed with a focus on the enabling conditions for the influence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This article argues against this dominant view that the increasingly institutionalized opportunities for NGO-participation have ambivalent effects. How the influence of NGOs is limited by the participative governance-framework is empirically demonstrated in the case of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS, Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005). Specifically, I reveal three limits and reconstruct how these were ignited by structural, institutional and self-organizational processes under conditions of extensive participation: NGO opportunities for influence decrease in the course of the negotiation process, are confined to rather irrelevant NGO-demands and, furthermore, available for only selective NGO actors.

Keywords: ngo-influence, civil society participation, global governance, un world summit on the information society, structurationist analysis.

Stephan Engelkamp/Katharina Glaab/Judith Renner

Office Hours

How (Critical) Norm Research Can Regain Its Voice
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Social Science research cannot be neutral. It always involves, so the argument of this article, the (re)production of social reality and thus has to be conceived as political practice. From this perspective, the present article looks into constructivist norm research. In the first part, we argue that constructivist norm research is political insofar as it tends to reproduce Western values that strengthen specific hegemonic discursive structures. However, this particular political position is hardly reflected in norm research. Hence, it is our goal in the second part of the article to outline research strategies potentially useful in a reflective and critical norm research. We propose a critical research program based upon three central methodological steps that are inspired by post-structuralism: first, the questioning of global hegemonic

values; second, the reconstruction of marginalized knowledge; and third, the explicit reflection of one's own research perspective.

Keywords: critical norm research, constructivism, post-structuralism, auto-ethnography, post-colonialism.

Cornelia Ulbert

The Sound of Many Voices: Challenges of Critical Norm Research

A Reply to Stephan Engelkamp, Katharina Glaab and Judith Renner
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Calling for a research programme of critical norm research, Stephan Engelkamp, Katharina Glaab and Judith Renner identify weaknesses of constructivist norm research in International Relations. To remedy these weaknesses they suggest questioning global hegemonic values, reconstructing marginalized knowledge and explicitly reflecting one's own research perspective. Entering into a conversation with the authors, I would like to look into their arguments and recommendations from an ontological, epistemological and methodological perspective. Constructivist norm research is based on a concept of norms and focuses on research questions, which are not consistent with the kind of critical perspective the authors favour. The biggest challenge of pursuing the research strategies the authors suggest is that knowledge production takes place within a knowledge community, whose boundaries can be shifted; but still you have to respect some fundamental conventions to be heard.

Keywords: constructivism, critical norm research, knowledge production, interpretive methodology, philosophy of science.