

Panel für die 3-Länder-Tagung „Regionalismus in einer entgrenzten Welt“ der  
DVPW-ÖGPW-SVPW 29.9.-1.10.2016 Universität Heidelberg

**Panel 12:**

**Regionale Organisationen: Globale Perspektiven**

Sektion 2: Funktion und Performanz von Regionalorganisationen  
Samstag, 1.10.2016, 9.00-10.30 Uhr

*Chair: Tobias Lenz (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, GIGA Hamburg)*

*Diskutant: Patrick Theiner (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)*

**1. The Rise of International Parliamentary Institutions: Authority and Legitimacy**

Jofre Rocabert, Frank Schimmelfennig (frank.schimmelfennig@eup.gess.ethz.ch),  
Thomas Winzen, Lorian Crasnic, ETH Zürich

International parliamentary institutions (IPIs) have become an established feature of international politics. While scholars of international institutions have extensively studied why states delegate to IOs in general, they have said little on the creation of IPIs. Moreover, IPIs present a puzzle to mainstream functional theories of international delegation. We propose to study the creation of IPIs as an institutional legitimation strategy designed to enhance the procedural democratic legitimacy of IOs. In a survival analysis, we find that a large policy scope of IOs, extensive delegation to executive secretariats, and member state participation in international parliamentary bodies elsewhere increase the likelihood of IPI creation. We complement the statistical analysis with case studies on NAFTA and ECOWAS.

**2. The Authority of International Organizations**

Michael Zürn (michael.zuern@wzb.eu), Alexandros Tokhi, Martin Binder, WZB  
Berlin

This paper introduces a novel dataset on the authority of International Organizations (IO). The dataset contains information on two types of IO authority – political and epistemic – across seven policy functions, which include (1) agenda setting, (2) rule making, (3) monitoring, (4) dispute settlement, (5) enforcement, (6) institutional evaluation, and knowledge generation (6). Our authority measure captures the degree of organizational autonomy and the intrusiveness of decisions and rules. This measure is applied to 36 IOs and their sub-bodies across time and policy functions. Initial analyses show significant and punctuated shifts in the

authority of IOs over time. Most importantly, states increasingly delegate agenda setting, dispute settlement, enforcement, and rule making competences to IOs. By identifying the patterns of institutional authority. This systematic approach advances the emerging literature on IO authority in important ways.

### **3. The Diffusion of Institutional Design Among Regional Organizations**

Anja Jetschke, Patrick Theiner (patrick.theiner@sowi.uni-goettingen.de), Claudia Marggraf, Sören Münch, Universität Göttingen

Why are there clones of the European Union (EU) in Africa and the Caribbean, i.e. regional organizations that are very similar to the institutional design of the EU? Why do regional organizations (RO) in general develop similar goals such as common markets or mechanisms of intervention – within and across regions? Are such similarities the outcome of random co-evolution, functional adaptation, or are they the outcome of outside coercion? Questioning the standard explanations for the design of international institutions, the Comparative Regional Organizations Project (CROP) investigates the extent to which institutional designs are determined by processes of diffusion between regional organizations. This is motivated by two observations: First, a number of regional organizations are quite similar in their institutional design. Second, the emergence of regional organizations occurs in waves. Over the last five decades, states have decided at specific points in time to either establish regional organizations or to amend them. Both observations indicate that regional organizations and their member states take their decisions in dependence on the decisions of other regional organizations – the similarity might be a consequence of diffusion. The project has begun to systematically survey the characteristics and content of the founding and/or amending documents of more than 100 regional organizations, and developed an index of similarity between texts, and therefore institutions. The paper presents CROP's methodological approach and first substantive insights, such as a quantitative evaluation of the argument that some regional organizations develop a model character for other regional organizations.

### **4. Discovering Cooperation: A contractual approach to Change in Regional International Organizations**

Gary Marks (UNC Chapel Hill), Tobias Lenz (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, GIGA Hamburg), Besir Ceka (Davidson College), Brian Burgoon (University of Amsterdam)

This paper offers a fresh perspective on institutional change drawing on recent advances in the economic theory of contracting. Contractual incompleteness enhances organizational flexibility, but only at the cost of perceptual ambiguity. We hypothesize that the willingness to engage in a highly incomplete contract depends

on shared understandings which reduce the cost of perceptual ambiguity. These claims are evaluated using a new dataset on delegation of state authority to non-state actors in 35 regional international organizations from 1950 to 2010. We are able to confirm across a wide range of models and specifications that reform is guided by contractual incompleteness and that contractual incompleteness is rooted in shared historical experience.