

“Legitimizing interventions in global/regional governance” (P149)

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The legitimation efforts of international and regional organizations have been subject to increasing attention within research on IR and regionalism. The existing literature is mainly scrutinizing legitimation discourses with regard to the organization itself as well as how the latter is governed. In their legitimation efforts – as a response to their growing politization in world politics –, organizations increasingly address their democratic deficits, and refer to democratic as well as functionalist norms, e.g. their ‘performance’. However, their actions and policies are often not in the focus of analysis. In the field of peace and security, both military and non-military interventions constitute policies which, due to their far-reaching exercise of international/regional authority of the implementing organization, require legitimation vis-à-vis different audiences. For example, regional organizations such as the African Union have wide-ranging powers to intervene in member states in resolving conflict and responding to unconstitutional changes of government. Whereas peacebuilding scholarship has pointed to the contestation of this kind of authority within the countries concerned, little attention has been paid to the legitimation practices and discourses of international/regional organizations with regard to their most impactful policy: interventions. Hence, in what ways organizations seek legitimacy of their interventions as well as how far they succeed in doing so remains understudied. Therefore, the panel aims at discussing the following questions: How do international/regional organizations seek to legitimize (non-)military interventions? Which audiences are addressed? Do international/regional organizations refer to particular norms/category of norms? Why and how do legitimation discourses differ with regard to the object of legitimation – the organization itself and its respective policies, notably, its interventions? What are the effects of different legitimation practices?