



IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

14 November 2014, 2pm
Room 24.S16 – IBEI (Floor -1)

Dr. Jennifer Erickson
Boston College

Dangerous Trade: The Arms Trade Treaty and the Politics of Social Reputation

The creation of the ATT and related initiatives therefore presents a microcosm of the policy pressures and imperatives states face in the post-Cold War world. By taking an in-depth look into the politics of the arms trade, this book provides insights into three important theoretical questions: First, at the state-level, what explains commitment to multilateral policies that were once impossible or out of the question, even in the absence of material or normative incentives to implement them? International negotiations are not cheap; they require time, political capital, and economic resources. Rather than “mere window-dressing,” the resulting agreements may impose costs and bind behavior in expected ways, risk unanticipated costs and consequences over time, and open states up to domestic legal challenges and hypocrisy costs. Second, at the international level, what explains how new norms gain prominence and legitimacy beyond their initial norm entrepreneurs? Scholars often highlight the importance of “norm cascades” to show how new ideas of appropriate behavior become accepted by a critical mass of states and institutionalized in international politics.

Dr. Jennifer Erickson

Jennifer L. Erickson is the White Family Sesquicentennial Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies at Boston College. Her research sits at the intersection of international security, political economy, and global governance. Her current projects deal with international reputation and humanitarian arms export controls; sanctions and arms embargoes; and the use of conventional weapons as an incentive to discourage nuclear weapons proliferation. She has published articles on the European arms trade, compliance with arms embargoes, and the UN Arms Trade Treaty process. Erickson's book, *Dangerous Trade: Conventional Arms Exports, Human Rights, and International Reputation*, is forthcoming with Columbia University Press. *Dangerous Trade* explains why major arms exporting democracies have come to support new humanitarian arms trade norms, articulated in the new UN Arms Trade Treaty and related multilateral initiatives, intended to restrict small and major conventional arms exports to human rights violators and conflict zones. She has a B.A. in Political Science from St. Olaf College and a Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University.

Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals

Ciutadella Campus (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Mercè Rodoreda Building - 24
Ramon Trias Fargas 25-27 / 08005 Barcelona
T. (+34) 93.412.11.89 www.ibeio.org
(please, confirm your attendance csanchez@ibeio.org)