



Liquid Authority in Global Governance

Workshop 11 January 2014

Venue: IBEI, Carrer Elisabets 10, 08001 Barcelona

In recent years, the study of global governance has made much progress in charting the variety of ways in which rules, norms and decisions are produced in the global realm. Yet while this work exhibits processes and institutional structures quite unlike traditional international organizations – and very different from those we know from the domestic sphere – much of the conceptual apparatus of the field remains bound up with traditional models. In theorizing authority, compliance, accountability, legitimacy or law, the focus is typically on 'solid' structures: norms and institutions of a relatively fixed and distinct nature, understood as producing independent effects on states and other actors. This orientation not only leaves out of sight large parts of governance beyond the state, but also tends to obscure the analytical, normative and institutional challenges we are facing. This workshop inquires into whether an explicit focus on 'liquid authority' might provide a better frame. Liquidity in this context is understood in four inter-related dimensions: informality, ideational character, fleetingness, and multiplicity. In its extreme form, it is reflected in governance processes without a clear center, dispersed over a multitude of actors and institutions (public and private) without a formal ascription of authority, never bundled in an identifiable decision, and achieving effects through uncoercive, often nudging or ideational means. The workshop will explore the concept of authority, the shape of liquid governance, and implications for legitimacy and accountability of a turn towards 'liquid authority'.

The workshop is by invitation and space is limited. Anyone interested in attending is requested to contact Tania Foix (tfoix@ibeicampus.ibeii.org).

Programme

9:45-10:00 Introduction: Nico Krisch (ICREA/IBEI)

10:00-11:30 **Panel 1: Authority**

Nicole Roughan (National University of Singapore): 'The Problem of Authorities'

Michael Zürn (Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung, Berlin): 'Is Rule and Authority Becoming Liquid?'

Discussant: Florian Hoffmann (Willy Brandt School of Governance, Erfurt)

11:30-12:00 Coffee

12:00-13:00 Panel 2: Dynamics

Ole Jacob Sending (Norwegian Institute for International Affairs): 'Competing for Authority: Recognition and field dynamics in global governance'

Discussant: Markus Jachtenfuchs (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin)

13:00-14:00 Lunch (IBEI)

14:00-15:30 Panel 3: Actors and Forms

Deborah Avant (Denver University): 'Liquid authority and "US preferences" in regulating military/security services and small arms'

Andrew Lang (London School of Economics): 'A River without a Source: the Liquid Character of Epistemic Authority'

Discussant: Virginia Haufler (University of Maryland)

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00-17:30 Panel 4: Legitimacy and Accountability

Terry Macdonald (University of Melbourne): 'The Political Legitimacy of Liquid Authority in World Society'

Mathias Koenig-Archibugi (London School of Economics): 'How democratic can liquid authority be?'

Discussant: Josep Ibañez (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

17:30-17:45 Coffee

17:45-18:45 Concluding Roundtable: Whither Liquidity?

Alec Stone Sweet (Yale University)

Nehal Bhuta (European University Institute)