



IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

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Room Fred Halliday 24.133 – IBEI (1st Floor)

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Mapping Governance Transfer by Regional Organizations: A Global Script in Regional Colours

In this paper, we explore and compare the trajectories of regional organizations' (RO) efforts in prescribing, promoting and protecting governance institutions on human rights, democracy, rule of law, and the fight against corruption in their member states over time and across regions. This quantitative comparison enables us to discuss the diverse approaches in promoting 'good governance' institutions; whether similar criteria are adopted or whether regional path dependencies prevail; and to what extent we can observe the convergence to and the diffusion of a 'global script'. Empirically, our findings suggest that governance transfer by regional organizations may indeed follow a global trend. Regional organizations around the globe increasingly prescribe governance standards. The initial prescription of governance standards tends to be followed by a subsequent elaboration of abstract norms into more precise norms and further to the broadening of scope of both content and instruments over time. However, these processes are not uniform, and we find significant variation between regions and amongst the four standards. Given these regional variations, it seems unlikely that regional organizations simply download a central governance script or pick and choose from a global menu. We conclude that there is a tentative 'global script' of setting governance standards, but regional particularities nevertheless persist.

Prof. Tanja Börzel

Tanja A. Börzel is professor of political science and holds the chair for European Integration at the Freie Universität Berlin. She received her PhD from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy in 1999. From 1999 to 2004, she conducted her research and taught at the Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods in Bonn, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University Heidelberg.

Her research focus and teaching experience lie in the field of institutional theory and Governance, European Integration, and Comparative Politics with a focus on Western and Southern Europe. She mainly concentrates on questions of institutional change as a result of Europeanization as well as on the diffusion of European ideas and policies within and outside of the EU. Since 2009 she has been leading the Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) "The Transformative Power of Europe" together with Prof. Dr. Thomas Risse and she is project coordinator of the FP-7 research project "Maximizing the Enlargement Capacity of the European Union".

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