

# IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

8 May 2014, 2pm  
Room Fred Halliday– IBEI (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

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Freie Universität Berlin

## *Why Do They Want Global Governance? A Two-Step Approach to the Formation of Public Support for Global Institutions*

Why do citizens support or reject the idea of global governance? The presentation addresses this question by examining individual attitudes about global institutions in a comparative perspective. According to the main argument put forward in the paper provided, we may think of the formation of citizens' support for global institutions as a two-step process. First, it theorizes the formation of global attitudes about the UN according to a process of cognitive mobilization. Using data from the fifth wave of the World Values Survey (2005-2007), I find strong empirical support for the role of individual attention to public cues for the relevance of the UN in rising global awareness of UN authority. In the second step, the paper examines how cognitively mobilized citizens seem to use available information to make up their minds about UN authority. The analysis of contextual variables suggests that a "particularist" calculus of national costs and benefits explains citizens' support for (and rejection of) UN authority to a significant extent. Most remarkably, citizens of powerful states favor UN authority much more than do those from weaker countries—a strong indication that a more competent UN is expected to further privilege the former to the disadvantage of the latter.

### **Dr. Matthias Ecker-Ehrhardt**

Matthias Ecker-Ehrhardt is a senior research fellow at the WZB research unit Global Governance. After he finished his studies at the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science, the Free University of Berlin (1990-95), he started working at the WZB as a research associate for the project "German-Polish Elite Study" with Prof. Wolf-Dieter Eberwein (1997-99). He was a postgraduate student at the WZB between 2000 and 2002, and received his degree at the Free University of Berlin in 2003. He was a research fellow at the University of Bremen, Institute for Intercultural and International Studies until 2005, when he started his time as a research fellow at the WZB's Global Governance. During the winter semester of 2012/2013, he also worked as a professor of International Relations at the Free University of Berlin. From June 2013 to March 2014 He was a professor of International Politics at the Institute for Political Science at the University of Leipzig.

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