



Program

**(Self-)Legitimation of International Organizations in
Disruptive Times**

*Convened by Tobias Lenz (Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany)
and Fredrik Söderbaum (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) in
cooperation with the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area
Studies, Hamburg, Germany*

Date: Wednesday, 9 December – Friday, 11 December 2020

Venue: LegRO Zoom Platform

Wednesday, 9 December 2020

Log-in time (14:45-15:00 CET)

Welcome and opening remarks (15:00 – 15:30 CET)

Session I: *Legitimation Discourses* (15:30 – 17:30 CET)

Chair: Tobias Lenz

Discussants

Jonas Tallberg & Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni	15:30 – 16:00	Klaus Dingwerth and Antonia Witt <i>“We, the People”</i> : The rise of people-centered norms in the legitimation of global governance organizations
Janne Mende & Lisa Dellmuth	16:00 – 16:30	Julia Gray and Rachel Hulvey <i>The Link between legitimation and IO immunity</i>
Diane Schumann & Kilian Spandler	16:30 – 17:00	Sarah von Billerbeck <i>Talk from the top: Leadership and self-legitimation in international organizations</i>
Julia Fleischer & Henning Schmidtke	17:00 - 17:30	Christian Rauh <i>Enhancing or deflecting public accountability? The language of European Commission press releases 1985-2018</i>
	End	17:30 – 17:40 CET

Thursday, 10 December 2020

Arrival/Tech Housekeeping (9:30 – 9:45 CET)

Session II: Popular Legitimacy and Legitimation (9:45 – 11:15 CET)

Chair: Lynda Iroulo

Discussants

Melanie Coni-Zimmer & Christian Rauh	9:45 – 10:15	Lisa Dellmuth and Jonas Tallberg <i>When self-legitimation strategies are successful: International organizations, institutional reform, and popular legitimacy</i>
Lora Viola & Aron Buzogany	10:15 – 10:45	Constantin Schäfer, Bernd Schlipphak and Oliver Treib <i>Increasing legitimacy by institutional reforms? Measuring the effect of EU reforms by a multifactorial design</i>
Michael Zürn & Tim Heinkelmann-Wild	10:45 – 11:15	Farsan Ghassim, Magdalena Bexell, and Anders Uhlin <i>Discursive (de)legitimation of international organizations: An exploratory analysis of justificatory norms on Twitter</i>
	Break	11:15 – 11:30 CET

Session III: Discursive legitimation (11:30 – 13:00 CET)

Chair: Niklas Krösche

Discussants

Klaus Dingwerth & Magdalena Bexell	11:30 – 12:00	Daniel F. Wajner <i>(Contested) legitimation brokers: Latin American regional organizations in the 'battle for legitimacy' in Venezuela</i>
Julia Gray & Farsan Ghassim	12:00 – 12:30	Kilian Spandler and Fredrik Söderbaum <i>Populist legitimation and delegitimation of international organizations</i>
Michael Zürn & Anders Uhlin	12:30 – 13:00	Tobias Lenz and Henning Schmidtke <i>The normative diversity of discursive self-legitimation in international organizations</i>

Lunch Break: 13:00 – 14:30 CET

Session IV: Strategies of Self-Legitimation in Regional Organizations (14:30 – 16:30 CET)

Chair: Henning Schmidtke

Discussants

Lynda Iroulo & Marius Dotzauer	14:30 – 15:00	Ueli Staeger <i>The African Union's self-legitimation through financial reform: The link between institutional and discursive self-legitimation</i>
Sarah von Billerbeck & Rachel Hulvey	15:00 – 15:30	Eugenia C. Heldt, Marius Gardt, and Daniel F. Schulz <i>A matter of survival, stable prices, or the common good?</i> <i>The European Central Bank's changing (self-)legitimation strategies, 1999-2019</i>
Anastassia V. Obydenkova & Swantje Schirmer	15:30 – 16:00	Raslan Ibrahim <i>The Arab League and the Arab Spring: Practices of self-legitimation in disruptive times</i>
	End	16:00 – 16:30 CET

Friday, 11 December 2020

Arrival/Tech Houskeeping (9:30 – 9:45 CET)

Session V: *New Legitimation Practices* (9:45 – 11:15 CET)

Chair: Swantje Schirmer

Discussants

Daniel F. Wajner & Bernd Schlipphak	9:45 – 10:15	Marius Dotzauer and Thomas Dietz <i>Sustainability in trade and investment agreements: A new legitimation narrative?</i>
Anastassia Obydenkova & Niklas Krösche	10:15 – 10:45	Melanie Coni-Zimmer, Nicole Deitelhoff, and Diane Schumann <i>Dialogue forums as (self-)legitimation practice: How international institutions engage with their critics</i>
Daniel Schulz & Ueli Staeger	10:45 – 11:15	Janne Mende <i>Legitimation through complexity: Practices of (de-) legitimation in the United Nations</i>
	Break	11:15 – 11:30 CET

Session VI: *Institutional Legitimation* (11:30 – 13:00 CET)

Chair: Kilian Spandler

Discussants

Klaus Dingwerth & Janne Mende	11:30 – 12:00	Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni <i>How do international organizations survive legitimacy crises?</i>
Sarah von Billerbeck & Thomas Dietz	12:00 – 12:30	Lora Anne Viola <i>Legitimacy-efficiency trade-offs in global governance: IOs, institutional fragmentation, and a new division of labour</i>
Christian Rauh & Lisa Dellmuth	12:30 – 13:00	Julia Fleischer and Aron Buzogány <i>Structural change and organisational legitimation in the UN Administration, 1998-2018</i>

Lunch break: 13:00 – 14:30 CET

Session VII: Legitimacy Crises (14:30 – 16:00 CET)

Chair: Fredrik Söderbaum

Discussants

Diane Schumann & Magdalena Bexell	14:30 – 15:00	Swantje Schirmer <i>Playing legitimation games with human rights: legitimation communication in regional organizations</i>
Raslan Ibrahim & Nicole Deitelhoff	15:00 – 15:30	Tim Heinkelmann-Wild and Bernhard Zangl <i>No defenseless scapegoats! Blame avoidance strategies of international organizations</i>
Aron Buzogány & Ueli Staeger	15:30 – 16:00	Anastassia V. Obydenkova <i>Self-Legitimation of non-democratic regional organizations in response to regional and global crises: the case of Eurasia</i>
	End	16:00 – 17:00 CET

Participants

1. **Bexell**, Magdalena (*Lund University*)
2. **Billerbeck**, Sarah V. (*University of Reading*)
3. **Buzogány**, Aron (*Free University Berlin*)
4. **Coni-Zimmer**, Melanie (*Peace Research Institute Frankfurt*)
5. **Deitelhoff**, Nicole (*Goethe University Frankfurt*)
6. **Dellmuth**, Lisa (*Stockholm University*)
7. **Dietz**, Thomas (*University of Münster*)
8. **Dingwerth**, Klaus (*University of St. Gallen*)
9. **Dotzauer**, Marius (*University of Bonn*)
10. **Eilstrup-Sangiovanni**, Mette (*University of Cambridge*)
11. **Fleischer**, Julia (*University of Potsdam*)
12. **Ghassim**, Farsan (*University of Oxford*)
13. **Gray**, Julia (*University of Pennsylvania*)
14. **Heinkelmann-Wild**, Tim (*Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich*)
15. **Hulvey**, Rachel (*University of Pennsylvania*)
16. **Ibrahim**, Raslan (*State University of New York at Geneseo*)
17. **Iroulo**, Lynda (*GIGA*)
18. **Krösche**, Niklas (*GIGA*)
19. **Lenz**, Tobias (*GIGA*)
20. **Mende**, Janne (*University of Giessen*)
21. **Obydenkova**, Anastassia V. (*Princeton University*)
22. **Rauh**, Christian (*WZB Berlin Social Science Center*)
23. **Schirmer**, Swantje (*GIGA*)
24. **Schlipphak**, Bernd (*University of Münster*)
25. **Schmidtke**, Henning (*GIGA*)
26. **Schulz**, Daniel F. (*University of Agder*)
27. **Schumann**, Diane (*Peace Research Institute Frankfurt*)
28. **Söderbaum**, Fredrik (*University of Gothenburg*)
29. **Spandler**, Kilian (*University of Gothenburg*)
30. **Staeger**, Ueli (*Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva*)
31. **Tallberg**, Jonas (*Stockholm University*)
32. **Uhlin**, Anders (*Lund University*)

33. **Viola**, Lora Anne (*Free University Berlin*)
34. **Wajner**, Daniel F. (*Free University Berlin*)
35. **Witt**, Antonia (*Peace Research Institute Frankfurt*)
36. **Zürn**, Michael (*WZB Berlin Social Science Center*)