



Conference Invitation:

Beyond Western Liberalism: Mapping Blind Spots in IR Norms Research

Annual Conference of the GGS –
Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Law
(University of Giessen)

Convened by
GGS section “Norms and Changes in Global Politics”
in cooperation with
DVPW thematic group “IR Norms Research”
Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (ISFH)
Institute of Political Science (University of Duisburg-Essen)
Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)

Keynote Speaker:
Jeffrey T. Checkel
Professor & Chair in International Politics
European University Institute

Date: 2nd – 3rd December 2019

Place: Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Main building, Ludwigstr. 23, room 315, Giessen
Keynote lecture: Main building, Ludwigstr. 23, Senatssaal.

IR norms research has developed a significant body of knowledge on the question of how norms affect international relations. It has established approaches in IR that do not only take material or rational interests into account, but also the implications, meanings and effects of ideas, norms and identities. It shows how norms matter in international relations, how they come into existence and change over time. Even though IR norm research has established a geographical focus both in the global North and the global South, the substantial focus of the norms being discussed often lies on liberal or so-called Western norms, or on norm entrepreneurs who promote Western or liberal standards of appropriateness in an international context. Accordingly, a critical strand of norms research has developed over the past years, criticizing an overly ‘Euro-centric’ or ‘Western-centric’ perspective, and encompassing a broader understanding of norms as processes rather than fixed entities. It contributes to the further development of IR norms research, which is not only limited to norms as the object of research, but also takes the position of the researcher and the larger context of norms into account. This approach requires going beyond a simple ‘good v. bad’ distinction of norms, and to develop a more in-depth understanding of the standards and models that serve as yardsticks for the evaluation of norms and normative orders.

Registration: The conference welcomes interested participants (limited places available). Please register no later than November 22nd with Falk.Ostermann@sowi.uni-giessen.de.

Monday, December 2nd

12.00 Arrival

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch (provided)

13.00 – 13.30 Welcome and opening words

Helmut Breitmeier (GGS section “Norms and Changes in Global Politics”),

Carmen Wunderlich (DVPW group “IR Norms Research”)

13.30 – 15.15 Panel 1: Normative Ambivalences and Ambiguities in the Liberal Paradigm

Simone Wisotzki (PRIF): Path of illiberalism? Anti-feminist contestation of gender equality norms

Johanna Speyer (U Mainz): Catching smoke? Norm cores between empty signifiers and liberal impositions

Anna Mühlhausen (U Hamburg): Negotiations with terrorist groups and the “no talks” paradigm

María Cárdenas (U Giessen): The evolution of ILO-C169 in Colombia: Its ambiguous effects and non-western resignification through the Peace Agreement of 2016

Chair: Regina Heller (IFSH)

Discussant: Alexander Reichwein (U Giessen)

15.15 – 15.45 Break

15.45 – 17.30 Panel 2: Norm Evolution and Non-Western Liberalism

Andrés Checa (U Giessen): Bringing the Latin American ‘Rogue States’ into the debate on norm entrepreneurship: Venezuela and Cuba as essential peacemaker within the Colombian peace negotiations

Alexandra Paulus (U Chemnitz): Assessing regional powers’ role in (cyber) norms development: A framework

Till Schöfer (Hertie School of Governance), Clara Weinhardt (U Maastricht): Rising powers and differential treatment norms for the developing world: Erosion of the North-South distinction in the World Trade Regime?

Chair: Alexander Reichwein (U Giessen)

Discussant: Mischa Hansel (Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden)

18.00 – 19.45 Keynote Lecture by Jeffrey T. Checkel:

Research on Norms: Thinking beyond Institutions

(venue: Senatssaal, Main building, Ludwigstr. 23)

20.00 Joint Dinner (at own expense)

Tuesday, December 3rd

8.30 – 9.00 Recap and Coffee

9.00 – 10.30 Panel 3: Agency out of the Box: Illiberal and Unorthodox Norm Entrepreneurs

Nadine Benedix (U Frankfurt): ¡Si al trabajo, no a la explotación! - Contextualizing norm contestation by Bolivian working children

Etienne Höra (U Freiburg/U Aix-en-Provence): On the (Belt and) Road to Sinocentric norms? China's Belt and Road Initiative as an instrument of norm promotion

Halima Akhrif (U Stuttgart), Simon Koschut (FU Berlin): Emotional resonance: Why liberal norms (sometimes) produce no effect

Chair: Carmen Wunderlich (U Duisburg-Essen)

Discussant: Stefan Kroll (PRIF)

10.30 – 11.00 Break

11.00 – 12.45 Panel 4: Legitimacy in Non-Western Environments

Birsen Erdogan (U Maastricht): Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and its contested constructions in the Turkish foreign policy discourse

Anjo Peez (PRIF), Lisbeth Zimmermann (Zeppelin U): Preservation vs. sustainable use: Saving the whales, rather not save the elephants?

Kilian Spandler (U Gothenburg): Saving face while saving people? The AHA Centre and the regional humanitarian architecture in Southeast Asia

Hanna Pfeifer (U Hamburg): How do Arab monarchies legitimise the external use of force? An emerging post-liberal security architecture in the Middle East and North Africa

Chair: Janne Mende (U Giessen/TU Darmstadt)

Discussant: Regina Heller (IFSH)

12.45 – 13.45 Lunch (provided)

13.45 – 15.30 **Panel 5: Politics and Institutions**

Helmut Breitmeier, Andrés Checa, Jacob Manderbach, Sandra Schwindenhammer, Magdalena Tanzer (all U Giessen): Politicized discourses on sustainable agriculture: Comparing norm understandings of international organizations

Ruji Auethavornpipat (Australian National U): Applicatory contestation and norm robustness: ILO Work in Fishing Convention and the weakening of migrant worker protection in Thailand

Fredrik Söderbaum (U Gothenburg), Kilian Spandler (U Gothenburg), Agnese Pacciardi (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa): Populism and world politics: How populists make sense of regional cooperation

Jonas Schaaf (U Giessen): Ungoverned spaces: Contestation of norms in the Sahel

Chair: Stefan Kroll (PRIF)

Discussant: Carmen Wunderlich (U Duisburg-Essen)

15.30 – 16.00 Wrap-up

The conference, organized by the GGS section “Norms and Changes in Global Politics” (University of Giessen) in cooperation with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, the Institute of Political Science (University of Duisburg-Essen) and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), is part of a workshop series of the DVPW thematic group “IR Norms Research” within the DVPW section “International Politics”. The conference is the launching event to a number of follow-on workshops in 2019 and 2020 organized by the cooperation partners.

Information about the GGS section “Norms and Changes in Global Politics”:

http://www.uni-giessen.de/faculties/research-centers/ggs/research/sections/normsandchanges?set_language=en

Information about the DVPW thematic group “IR Norms Research”:

<https://ib-normenforschung.weebly.com/>