

Panel 8: International Organizations in the 21st Century

Organizers: Bertjan Verbeek & Jaap de Wilde

This workshop sought to further explanations the increased policy discretion of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). The end of the Cold War ended the paralysis of IGOs caused by superpower-rivalry. Globalization spurred nation-states to regulate its (un)desired consequences by delegating various tasks to old and new IGOs. In particular regional organizations (such as Mercosur, SADC and AU) seem to have widened their reach. In doing so, they empowered a host of new factors, both domestically and internationally, including domestic and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). IGOs have been demonstrated to be able to affect both agenda setting, decision making and implementation phases of the policy cycle (both domestically and internationally).

This workshop sought to draw expertise from both public administration, policy studies, political science and international law in order to determine the conditions under which IGOs can pursue substantive preferences (that is, independent from the preferences of their most powerful member states). It welcomed papers on different issue areas, different types of IGOs as well as different theoretical perspectives. It particularly welcomed papers that adopted an explicit comparative perspective.

The findings of the workshop will have contributed to all three foci of the NiG research program: IGOs (esp. World Bank and IMF) are sometimes seen as 'villains', instruments of the most powerful states, sometimes they are considered representatives of 'international civil society'. IGOs may thus occasionally 'represent' citizens in an age of global governance (Citizens & Governance). Second, as nation states seem to delegate tasks, and sometimes policy discretion, to IGOs the role of IGOs touches upon the issue of the Future of the Nation State. Finally, because IGOs differ considerably in their organizational shape and management practices, the workshop shed some light in the issue of Public Management in a Joined-up World.

Organizers:

Prof dr Bertjan Verbeek, Department of Public Administration and Political Science, Nijmegen School of Management, Radboud University Nijmegen, PO Box 9108, 6500 HK, Nijmegen, b.verbeek@fm.ru.nl

Prof dr Jaap de Wilde, Department of International Organizations, Faculty of Arts, RijksUniversiteit Groningen, Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 26, 9712 EK Groningen, J.H.de.Wilde@rug.nl