

Panel 2: Administrative Governance

Chaired by: Tannelie Blom (Maastricht University) and Sophie Vanhoonacker (Maastricht University).

The attempt to provide direction and political steering to the ever expanding transnational, if not global, chains of social, cultural, economic and political interactions has resulted in numerous institutions and organizations for multilateral coordination and cooperation. These organizations range from the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) to the WTO, from the Atomic Energy Agency to the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). Pervasive as it is, this phenomenon has become a core concern of International Relations scholars, political scientists, students of International Law and International Political Economists. Yet, their research tends to keep the bureaucratic interior of international organizations outside the analytical focus. Even when it comes to the European Union, allegedly not only the most developed, but also the most thoroughly researched form of international cooperation, attention to its administrative infrastructure and bureaucratic processes is rather limited to the European Commission.

This panel focused on the role of administrative bodies that are established to facilitate trans- and supranational policy coordination and integration. It is strongly motivated by a theoretical-descriptive as well as normative-political puzzle, the question namely under which conditions the non-elected career civil servants that 'run' these international secretariats and bureaucracies are able to exert a substantial influence on the content, scope and execution of the decisions and policies that formally result from the negotiations between democratically elected political actors.

Link with the NIG subthemes

The theme of this panel is directly related to the NIG subthemes 1 - Citizens and governance - and 3 - Public management in a joined up world.

Type of papers

This panel invited papers that focused on the role of administrative players and procedures in the making of international and European public policies. This implied papers dealing with the role of international, European and national administrations in the policy-process, as well as the interaction between administrative and other logics (e.g. representative, participatory and diplomatic) within the institutional dynamics of international organisations and the EU.

Furthermore it was also encouraged to submit papers dealing with the normative dimension of administrative governance.