NIG Annual Work Conference 2016,
24-25 November, Antwerp (Belgium)

Panel 4: International and EU governance

Dr. Rik de Ruiter (Leiden University)
Prof. Dr. Esther Versluis (Maastricht University)

With this panel we aim to bring together junior and senior scholars interested in the functioning of systems of multilevel governance, with a focus on the interaction between levels of regional, international and EU governance (including regulation). In an ever globalizing world, the importance of politics and policy beyond the nation state is growing rapidly, resulting in changes in the multi-level polity in which the traditional nation state is only one of many relevant actors. An illustration of this phenomenon is the impact of the global financial crisis on the regulation of the financial sector in the European Union. Because of the financial crisis – triggered by, among others, private rating agencies – the EU is now able to regulate a field on which competences were until recently shielded by nation states from the influence of European integration. At the same time, the EU cannot introduce regulation in isolation from other international actors, such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Problems policy makers need to deal with at the national level and beyond are increasingly transboundary in nature, as modern societies are consisting of a tightly woven web of critical infrastructures crossing geographical borders and policy boundaries. As a result, risks and uncertainties easily spread over very diverse policy fields and spread both within the EU system of multi-level governance and also globally. Such transboundary problems are particularly hard to manage due to the fragmentation of authority and thus a lack of clear ownership and responsibility for tackling the problems at hand.

This panel aims to bring together a network of colleagues working on questions related to this growing interconnectedness – and accompanying increasing levels of complexity and uncertainty – between levels of governance and government within and beyond the nation state. We would like to continue the cooperation after this panel in a NIG colloquium on the following topics:

- *Policy*: How and to what extent are complex, uncertain and transboundary policy issues regulated effectively and responsibly at various levels of governance?
- *Politics*: How are relations between elected and non-elected public officials at the various levels in the multi-level polity affected by the growing interconnectedness?
- *Polity*: What new institutional arrangements at the (sub)national, EU and international level emerge as a response to increasing globalization?

Next to presenting and discussing the individual papers, we will use the NIG conference to further discuss the future activities of this new NIG colloquium.

If you want to present a paper, please submit your abstract (max. 800 words) to NIG before August 25th 2016 via de NIG website.

Panel chairs:

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