

Workshop 17:

European domestic societies in the face of European integration and globalisation

Workshop Directors:

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Outline of the topic

Research on either the domestic implications of globalisation, or on how EU membership may give rise to policy and institutional change in EU member states has begun attract considerable attention. This workshop is an attempt to build upon this important scholarship by helping to fashion a research agenda that seeks to investigate simultaneously the relationship between global market pressures, supranational governance and domestic socio-economic transformation in European states. This, we suggest, is a vital move in improving our understanding of domestic change. Arguably, our knowledge of the implications on domestic change of either EU membership/Europeanisation or globalisation will remain limited until we begin to investigate the three phenomena in concert.

For the purposes of this workshop, this broad aim can be translated into two broad empirical objectives: (1) to consider how European domestic societies respond to European integration and globalisation respectively and (2) to examine how EU-level institutions, discourses and policies either facilitate or act as an 'antidote' to globalisation. The workshop will be a venue for the collection of new empirical work on these problems, which focus attention of a range of domestic changes and adaptations while being attentive to how EU governance might sit between the domestic and the global. On the former, we have in mind a range of possible adaptations/transformations/changes. These might include evidence for the appearance of new modes of governance in national polities, changes to established patterns of political conflict or interest intermediation, the emergence of new discourses of economic patriotism, the recalibration of domestic identities or the neoliberalisation of public administration or sectoral policies. It should be clear that there is no presupposition of convergence around a particular model of capitalism as a consequence of Europeanising or globalising dynamics. The challenge is whether we can trace significant domestic change to the effects of these external inputs. In terms of EU governance, the issue here is the extent to which this has evolved as a significant intervening institutional variable sitting between global imperatives and domestic change. Again, we do not presuppose uniformity. We might even hypothesise that the EU constitutes itself differently in distinct domains of action/policy sectors. Mediation might in this sense involve the facilitation of globalisation or it might involve operating as a form of collective insurance against globalisation.

On top of these empirical aspirations, the workshop – out of necessity – will be a venue for the discussion of the significant analytical challenge that comes with thinking how best political scientists and political economists might theorise the tripartite relationship between globalisation, Europeanisation and domestic change. For example, domestic change as a dependent variable could be thought of as being exposed to rival independent global and European imperatives. Institutionalists of various hues will be interested in the mediating effects of both EU and domestic institutions upon the interaction of

globalisation and domestic political economies. Perhaps the EU is less of a mediator of globalisation and more of a facilitator of domestic restructuring in line with emergent global market norms. We might consider whether it is any longer helpful to think about the domestic, the European and the global as three analytically separable domains of action. Ways of navigating through these issues might be found within the existing corpus of political science scholarship. But perhaps we need to import ideas from other fields such as economic sociology or political geography. Perhaps discourse-based or constructivist approaches have more to offer than their established rationalist rivals.

Relation to existing research

There are at least four main theoretical positions on the interrelationships between globalisation, European integration and the domestic level.

Position (1): European integration

First, states may be seen as being subject to certain global forces which, in turn, probe these states to strive for political and economic integration on the European level. Some argue that increased competition on international markets lead organised interests to put pressure on national governments to strike the best possible intergovernmental deals to ease off such competition or, through the creation of European regulations and institutions, to improve the international position of domestic European industries (Moravcsik 1998). Others emphasise how EU-level institutional entrepreneurs seek to deal with common European challenges through the design of common policies (Risse 2005; Hass 1968). Multilateral institutions dealing with global challenges may further increase the need for European supranational governance (Sweet & Sandholtz 1998; Hennis 2001). Together, this literature has European integration as the dependent variable and global factors may form part of a wider range of independent variables in explaining European integration.

Position (2): Regulatory politics

This position sees the implications of global forces on the domestic level as being mediated through the EU. This is whether EU level institutions and policies are seen as the enforcement of globalisation (Haverland 2003), whether the EU is seen as an 'antidote' and work so to ease off the adverse effects of globalisation (Graziano 2003; Verdier & Breen 2001; Levi-Faur 2004), or whether European integration and global trends collapses into each other and can not be treated as distinct independent variables (Anderson 2003; Fligstein & Merand 2002). The types of explanatory variables emphasised have to do with variations in EU-level regulatory responses to global challenges across different policy sectors.

Position (3): A discursive perspective

A third approach emphasise European integration and globalisation as a set of concepts and conceptions, which set out a discursive context for domestic decision makers, policies and institutions (Rosamond 2005; Hay & Rosamond 2002). From this perspective, significant variations exists as to how European integration and globalisation are translated and used strategically to legitimate and carry through reforms (or not) in national contexts. Focus is put on how decision makers respond to the

conceived implications of European integration and the global as well as on how decision makers may use discourses on European integration and globalisation strategically in bringing about domestic change.

Position (4): An institutional perspective

A fourth perspective view global forces and European integration as mediated by domestic institutions which, in turn, may give rise to some level of policy and institutional convergence or divergence among EU member states (Schmidt 2002; Schmidt 2003; Dyson 2003; Thatcher 2004). From this perspective – for which the literature on ‘varieties of capitalism’ is a central source of inspiration - domestic change may depend on variations in member state institutional capacities, policy preferences, policy legacies, perceptions of economic vulnerability and domestic agents strategic use of domestic reform discourses. Others ascribing to a similar line of thinking explain variations in domestic responses to global forces and European integration by variations national political systems – differentiating among statist, strong neo-corporatist political systems or intermediate neo-corporatist systems (Menz 2005).

Participants

Prospective participants are likely to be working within comparative and international political economy broadly defined to include the likes of public policy analysis, economic sociology and political geography. The workshop will welcome the input of established scholars as well as newer members of the research community, including doctoral students.

Type of paper

Papers are invited which approach the workshop themes from a range of theoretical perspectives including the study of ‘varieties of capitalism’, discourse analysis and institutional theory. Particularly welcome are case-studies, cross-national comparisons and cross-sectoral comparative studies.

Biographical note

Ben Rosamond (BA (Econ.) MA (Econ.), PhD) is Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick, UK. He is founding co-editor of the journal *Comparative European Politics* and convenor of the newly founded UK Political Studies Association specialist group on Political Economy. His research interests include the theoretical analysis of European integration and the development of ideas about European economic space in the context of globalisation. His books include *Globalization and the European Union* (Palgrave Macmillan forthcoming) and *Theories of European Integration* (Macmillan, 2000).

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