

## Workshop 27:

### The diffusion of authority? Changing patterns of international governance

**Workshop Directors:** Stefano Guzzini and Iver B. Neumann)

Over the last decades, there has been an increasing research on the diffusion of authority in the international system, away from the military to other sources of power, from the state to other actors in the system, and from the public realm to markets. Indeed, there has been a shift to think in terms of ‘governance’ instead of great power politics or international order. More concretely, such research tackled the re-organisation of governance:

- (1) in international political theory through attempts at re-defining the concept and analysis of power and governance in international relations (e.g. structural power or governmentality studies, the understanding of common goods and the common good provided by governance);
- (2) in institutional or IO analysis through the study of increasing ‘juridification’ of international affairs (including the fate of different multilateral arrangements);
- (3) in international political economy by researching the shift of authority from the realm of public actors to market structures which affect fundamental institutions of international society, such as e.g. sovereignty (e.g. the de-territorialisation of authority by off-shore finance). Indeed, the lurking question is whether the ability to control is not just shifting, but actually ‘evaporating’; and finally
- (4) in globalisation studies which focus on the new publicly sanctioned (but private) authorities which emerged through the privatisation of fundamental governance roles such as e.g. security (Private Military Companies), fiduciary (private credit rating agencies) or standard setting (e.g. International Accounting Standards Board); on the creation and role of an increasingly networked international public sphere (Transnational Advocacy Groups); and on the emergence of corporate social responsibility (CSR) as possibly a form of moral (and global) citizenship.

The workshop addresses this emerging picture of a diffusion of authority, as well as de-territorialisation and privatisation of governance. Its aim consists in combining these

different research paths into a more comprehensive, theoretically precise and empirically detailed analysis. The state of the art is already sufficiently advanced for making such an intellectual advance and synthesis feasible.

The workshop will therefore try to bring scholars from a variety of disciplinary and methodological backgrounds together. For allowing a focused debate, it invites in particular

(1) theoretical and methodological studies which further our capacity to identify instances of, and to provide frameworks for studying, international governance. To cite some examples:

- the discipline of IR has seen a renewed interest in a Foucaultian analysis of governmentality, as for instance in the thesis that much of the ‘diffusion’ of authority is not a shift from public to private, but rather to be thought in terms of a public-private re-arrangement of international governance in which that very distinction has become blurred. On the basis of existing research, how can a Foucaultian approach be most fruitfully applied? And how can the thesis of the re-definition of the public and private sphere be best accounted and controlled for?
- with world politics acquiring an increasing ‘societal’ component, there have been attempts to apply a Bourdieu-inspired elite sociology to international relations. How can Bourdieu’s capital analysis be best transferred to the international level, how his field analysis be usefully operationalised?
- structural power and hegemony. How best to understand the impact of prevailing ideas and norms on governance practices, such as e.g. the diffusion of ideas about ‘new public management’ on the legitimacy and practices of ‘good governance’.

(2) empirical studies which specify or question the existence of such allegedly new instances of governance at the global, regional, or local level by either providing primary evidence or by synthesising such evidence in a wider understanding of the re-articulation of power in world affairs. Such empirical analysis can e.g. focus on:

- the realm of functions, old and new, which are expected to be handled by collective actors in the international realm: is the content of governance changing, and if so, how and where exactly?
- the realm of actors or private-public actor relations newly responsible for collective

goods or the common good; the redefinition of the agency of hitherto responsible or 'authorised'/legitimate actors; the study of transnational elites (including counter-elites): is legitimate agency changing in international governance?

- the scope of new types of power, as e.g. the power of self-fulfilling prophecies, performativity and reflexivity in financial markets: how is the phenomenon of power evolving in particular contexts?

### **Biographical note**

Stefano Guzzini is Professor of Government at Uppsala University and Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen. His research interests are social and political theory, international relations theory, the conceptual analysis of power and foreign policy analysis. His most recent publications include "The concept of power: a constructivist analysis" (Millennium, 2005) and the co-edited volume *Constructivism and International Relations: Alexander Wendt and his critics* (Routledge, 2006). He is currently finishing a monograph on *Power in International Relations*, to be forthcoming with Cambridge University Press in 2009.

Iver B. Neumann is Professor at the Department for European Literature, Area Studies and Languages, Oslo University and Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. Major research interests are social theory, international relations theory, diplomacy, Russian and Norwegian foreign policy, European integration. He has published twelve books and has recently focused on governmentality in co-authored work with Ole Jacob Sending: "'The International" as Governmentality' (Millennium, 2007) and "Governance to Governmentality: Analyzing NGOs, States and Power" (International Studies Quarterly, 2006). He is currently finishing a book with Ole Jacob Sending on governmentality, working title: *Governing the Global Polity*.