

WORKSHOP 29

29. Civil Society, Democracy and Global Governance

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The role of civil society actors in global politics has received much scholarly attention during recent years. However, empirical studies of democratic aspects of the interaction between civil society actors and global governance institutions are rare. The proposed workshop aims at taking research on civil society and global governance a step forward through a focus on the democratic qualities and contributions of civil society actors and their interactions with a range of governance institutions above the state. More specifically we aim at gathering researchers analysing different kinds of civil society activism related to various forms of global and regional governance with the aim of analysing and discussing the extent to which such interventions are democratic, seek to build or contribute to democracy (whether at the global, regional, national or sub-national levels) or understand their mandate to be in any way driven by democratic imperatives. We therefore invite cutting edge, empirically grounded research on various non-governmental organizations, social movements and other forms of non-state interventions interacting with different regional or global governance institutions or seeking to influence the direction of global governance regimes. The focus might, for example, be on problems of representation and accountability as well as the tension between coercive and non-coercive forms of activism. This is a topic that opens up potentially very fruitful exchange between scholars working within the fields of comparative politics, international relations, international political economy and political theory and we explicitly welcome interdisciplinary approaches.