



Research Seminar

Changing Power Relations and Agenda-Setting in Club Governance of the Global Economy

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Changing power relations are frequently interpreted in reference to who determines global policy priorities in international organizations, pitting countries of the Global North against the Global South, led by rising powers. As club governance becomes more central to global decision-making, however, it becomes increasingly crucial to understand how agenda-setting reflects rising powers' changing position in informal global governance as well. We apply ourselves to this task in this paper. First, we perform a topic analysis of joint statements from the G77, G7/8 and BRICS groups to determine the extent to which policy priorities in the Global South, Global North and emerging states, respectively, actually diverge in relation to agenda-setting within club governance. We then use the differences discovered between the groups as reference points to estimate each group's agenda-setting power in today's leading economic governance club, the G20. In so doing, we not only shed new light on assumptions in the literature about how different the policy aspirations of these groups of states are. In addition, we identify issue areas where club cooperation among Northern, Southern and emerging power states can be expected to be fruitful in the coming years.



Laura Mahrenbach is a post-doctoral fellow at the Bavarian School of Public Policy (HfP). Her research interests include emerging powers, global (economic) governance and big data. She is currently working on a three-year research project funded by the German Research Foundation on conceptualizing emerging powers. Laura is the author of *The Trade Policy Strategies of Emerging Powers* (Palgrave 2013) and has also co-edited *The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary International Political Economy* (2019).

Prior to joining the HfP, Laura worked at the Technical University of Dresden, Curry College and the Ruhr University of Bochum (RUB). She holds an MA from Florida State University and a Ph.D from RUB.



Dr. Mirco Schönfeld is a post-doctoral fellow at the Bavarian School of Public Policy (HfP). His research interests are focused on, but not limited to, context-awareness, data mining, social networks and network analysis. He aims to understand and predict the influence of a network on the behavior of single agents by developing techniques in network analysis and machine learning that enable investigation of structural and contextual conditions of agents' embeddings.

Prior to joining the HfP, Mirco worked at Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich (LMU). He holds a Diploma in Media Informatics and a Doctorate in Computer Science from the LMU.

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