Research Seminar

Individual Preferences for Antitrust Policy

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Competition policy, called antitrust policy in the U.S., is aimed at reducing industrial concentration and increasing competition among firms. Although traditionally the purview of domestic politics, the proliferation of large multinational corporations precipitated proposals for international cooperation with regard to antitrust regulations and enforcement. However, countries' willingness to engage in international cooperation depends on their domestic politics, especially when firms headquartered in their country are likely targets of antitrust regulation. We theorize that support for domestic and international antitrust policy is shaped by individuals' concerns about how the policies shape their individual and country's economic prospects. We test support for antitrust policy and international antitrust cooperation using a national survey experiment on American individuals. We find that individuals are concerned about the effects of antitrust policy on national competitiveness, especially being placed at a disadvantage relative to foreign competitors, and that individuals have stronger support for antitrust policies when they are enforced against foreign firms. On-average, Americans are supportive of both domestic and international cooperation on antitrust policy.

Prof. Dr. Ryan Brutger is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. He is broadly interested in international relations and foreign policy. His research crosses international political economy, international law, and international security, examining the domestic politics of international negotiations and cooperation.

Prof. Dr. Amy Pond is Assistant Professor in the Politics of Finance at the TUM School of Governance and Hochschule für Politik München. Her research analyzes how global markets shape domestic politics and policy with a particular emphasis on the balance between public interests and commercial interests.

Hochschule für Politik München - Virtual Seminar Room
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Please email Tim Büthe <buthe@hfp.tum.de> for the password to access the room.

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