

International History International Relations/Political Science

Academic year 2020-2021

International Organisations and Global Narratives

HI128 (RI-SP104) - Printemps - 6 ECTS

Tuesday 14h15 - 16h00

Course Description

This course investigates the historical origins, political roles and normative power of International Organizations in global governance from an interdisciplinary perspective. Combining historical, sociological and political science approaches, the course focuses on international organizations as spaces where narratives on challenges of global governance are developed, institutionalized and diffused. In a first part, we will discuss how international issues are created and framed. In a second part, we examine which historically and culturally embedded ideas shape our international system. In a third part we reflect on the nature of IOs and their power as well as the mechanisms, processes and forms of expertise through which they establish norms, policies and practices of international governance. Last but not least the course will look at why and how IO narratives can become contested by a variety of actors in the international public sphere. These themes will be explored both through theory and a wide range of case studies, including the governance of science and technology, food security issues, human rights and labor issues.

> PROFESSORS

[Amalia Lavinia Noemi Ribi Forclaz](#)
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> ASSISTANTS

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Syllabus

Method of Assessment

1. Seminar participation (20%)

Students are expected to attend each seminar and to **complete 3 of the readings listed for each week**. Having read the suggested material is essential for good participation in class discussions. Active participation means engaging with others and therefore **we expect students to turn on their camera when following the course online**.

2. Reading Reflection (20%)

Students will sign up once during the semester (between weeks 3-12), to provide a detailed written commentary on all the readings of the particular week they have signed up for (750- 1000 words). This commentary will take the form of a short critique of the readings (what are the key points, particular methodology used, conclusions, strengths and limitations, also compared with other readings) followed by up to 3 questions for class discussion. The reflections should be sent to the TA and will be posted on moodle the day before class (Monday at 10 am). Students should be prepared to say a few words about their reflection either at the beginning or at the end of class.

3. Term Paper (60%)

The final term paper should be related to one of the themes raised during the class. Papers should be approximately 3000-3500- words in length. You are expected to think independently about your possible research question for the term paper, but you should consult with one of us once you have proposals in mind. You should have a proposal by week 9, which you should submit to us in written form by email. The paper should demonstrate an understanding of the class content and the readings and an ability to analyze them critically and to make connections between them. Attention will be paid to clarity of expression and appropriate use of terminology. You are welcome to carry out some primary research (interviews / use of archival sources) but this is not compulsory.

WEEK 1 / February 23: Introduction: Course Outline, Explanations of Assignments

No readings

WEEK 2 / March 2: What is Global Governance; What are Narratives; How do International Issues Emerge? Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Readings:

-Biersteker, Thomas. 2009. "Global Governance." In Myriam Dunn Cavelty and Victor Mauer (eds.) *Routledge Companion to Security* (New York and London: Routledge Publishers), pp. 439-451.

-Jean-Peter Voss and Richard Freeman. 2016. *Knowing Governance. The Epistemic Construction of Political Order*, Palgrave. Read introduction.

- A. Iriye, *Global Community: The Role of International Organizations in the Making of the Contemporary World* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002) Introduction.

-Weiss, Thomas, and Rorden Wilkinson. "Rethinking Global Governance? Complexity, Authority, Power, Change." *International Studies Quarterly* 58 (2014): 207-15

Further reading:

-Sluga, Glenda, 'Editorial: the Transnational History of International Institutions' *Journal of Global History*, 6, 2011: 219-222.

-Jasanoff, Sheila and Sang-Hyun Kim (2015). *Dreamscapes of Modernity. Sociotechnical Imaginaries and the fabrication of Power*, Chigago: The University of Chicago Press, chapter 1 (on narratives)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATONS AND HISTORICAL LEGACIES

WEEK 3 /March 9: The Emergence of International Institutions: Geneva as an International Space

Readings:

- Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea* (New York, 2012). Chapter 3.

- G. Sluga, *Internationalism in the Age of Nationalism* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013) Chapter 2, *Imagine Geneva Between The Wars*.

- Susan Pedersen, 'Getting out of Iraq – in 1932: The League of Nations and the Road to Normative Statehood', *American Historical Review*, 115: 4 (2010), 975-1000.

For further reading:

-Anthony Anghie, 'Colonialism and the Birth of International Institutions: Sovereignty, Economy and the Mandates System of the League of Nations', *International Law and Politics*, 34:513

- P. Clavin, 'Introduction: Defining Transnationalism', *Contemporary European History* 14(4) (2005): 421–39

-BBC Series Things We Forgot to Remember: The League of Nations:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00fz8fb>

WEEK 4 / March 16: IOs after World War II

Readings:

- John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraints and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), chapter 6.

- Cox, Robert W. (1981) *Social Forces, States, and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory*. *Millennium* 10:127–155.

- Ruggie, John G. 1982. “International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order.” *International Organization*, 36:2, pp. 379-415.

Further reading:

-Michael Barnett, *The End of a Liberal International Order That Never Existed*, *The Global*
<https://theglobal.blog/2019/04/16/the-end-of-a-liberal-international-order-that-never-existed/Global>

-Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea* (New York, 2012).) Chapters 7: ‘The League is Dead. Long Live the United Nations’ and Chapter 8: ‘Cold War Realities, 1945-49’.

-Donald Puchala, 2005. ‘World Hegemony and the United Nations,’ *International Studies Review*: 571-584.

THE MAKING OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE PROBLEMS

WEEK 5 / March 23: The Emergence of the Development Narrative

- Uma Kothari, ‘Authority and Expertise’: The Professionalization of International Development and the Ordering of Dissent’, *Antipode*, xxxvii (2005), 425-446.

-Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea* (New York, 2012). Chapter 10: *Development as World—Making, 1949-1973*.

- Amalia Ribi Forclaz, ‘From Reconstruction to Development: The Early Years of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Conceptualization of Rural Welfare, 1945-1955’, *International History Review* (2018) .

For further reading:

-Amy Staples, *The Birth of Development: How the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, and World Health Organization Changed the World, 1945–1965*, Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2006. Chapter 2: Constructing an International Economic World View.

-David Webster, ‘Development Advisers in a Time of Cold War and Decolonization: The United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, 1950-1959’, *Journal of Global History* (2011) 6: 249-272.

WEEK 6 / March 30: Creating Global Governance Problems - the Case of Climate

Readings:

- Bent Allan, ‘Producing the Climate: States, Scientists, and the Constitution of Global Governance objects’. *International Organization*. 2017, 71 (1), 131-162.

- Clark A. Miller, 'Climate Science and the Making of a Global Political Order'. In Sheila Jasanoff, ed.
- De Pryck, Kari, Wanneau Krystel, '(Anti)-Boundary Work in global Environmental Change Research and Assessment', *Environmental Science & Policy* 77 (2017), 203-210.

For further reading:

- Jean Foyer, Stefan Aykut, Edouard Morena . *Globalising the Climate. COP21 and the climatisation of global debates* (Routledge, Routledge, 2017). Read introduction.
- Haas, P. M. (1992). "Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination", *International Organization* 46(1), pp. 1-35.

EASTER BREAK 2-11 APRIL

THE POWER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

WEEK 7 / April 13: The Rise of the Expert: Knowledge, Science and the Making of International Policy

-Davide Rodogno, Bernhard Struck, and Jakob Vogel (eds), *Shaping the Transnational Sphere: Experts, Networks and Issues from the 1840s to the 1930s* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2015). Introduction,

-Kott, Sandrine, "Une 'communauté épistémique' du social? Experts de l'OIT et internationalisation des politiques sociales dans l'entre-deux-guerres", *Genèses*, 71 (June 2008), pp. 26–46

- Littoz-Monnet, A. (ed.), (2017), *The Politics of Expertise in International Organizations. How International Bureaucracies Produce and Mobilize Knowledge*, London, Routledge. Read book introduction

Further reading:

-Bueger, Christian. "Communities of Security Practice at Work? The Emerging African Maritime Security Regime." *African Security* 6, no. 3-4 (2013/07/01 2013): 297-316.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2013.853579>.

-Haas, Peter M., "Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination", *International Organization*, 46 (Winter 1992), pp. 1–35

-Sending, Ole Jacob. 'Knowledge Networks, Scientific Communities, and Evidence-Informed Policy', in: *The Oxford Handbook of Global Policy and Transnational Administration*, 2019

WEEK 8 / April 20: IOs as (Political) Bureaucracies (A)

Readings:

- Barnett, Michael N. and Martha Finnemore. 1999. "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations." *International Organization*, 53:4, pp. 699-732.
- Lucile Maertens, 'Depoliticisation as a Securitising Move: the Case of the United Nations Environment Programme', *European Journal of International Security*, 2018, 3: 3, 344-363
- Müller, Birgit. *The Gloss of Harmony: the Politics of Policy-Making in Multilateral Organisations*. London: Pluto Press, 2013. Read book introduction.

For further reading:

Frank Petiteville, 'International Organizations Beyond Depoliticized Governance', *Globalizations*, 15 (2018). 301-313.

WEEK 9/ April 27: The Politics of Quantification

Readings:

- Theodore M. Porter, *Trust In Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life* (Princeton, 1995 or new Edition) , Introduction (3-8) and Chapter II (How Social Numbers Are Made Valid, 33-48).
- Michelle Murphy, *The Economization of Life* (Durham & London, 2017). Introduction and chapter of your choice.
- Jasanoff, S. (2017). 'Virtual, Visible, and Actionable: Data Assemblages and the Sightlines of Justice'. *Big Data & Society*, 2017, 4(2).

For further reading:

- Sotiria Grek, 'Governing by Numbers: The PISA 'Effect' in Europe', *Journal of Education Policy* 24, 2009, 1: 23-37.
- Davis, Kingsbury & Merry, 'Indicators as a Technology of Global Governance' *Law & Society Review*, 2012, 46 (1): 71-104

WEEK 10/ May 4: IOs, Private Actors and Global Governance: The Case of Finance (FILM)

This session will consist of a discussion of a documentary shared with you one week before class. The class itself will consist of a discussion of the documentary which will be about the global governance of finance and the role of private experts therein.

Readings:

- Tsigou, Eleni, (2015). 'Club Governance and the Making of Global Financial Rules', *Review of International Political Economy* 22(2).

-Davies, W. and McGoey, L., (2012). Rationalities of ignorance: on financial crisis and the ambivalence of neo-liberal epistemology. *Economy and Society*. 41 (1), 64-83

CONTESTATION OF GLOBAL NARRATIVES

WEEK 11/ May 11: NGOs and Transnational Advocacy – the Cases of the International Code on Breastmilk Substitutes and of EU Nanotechnology Policy

Readings:

- Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. *Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. 1998, NY: Cornell University Press. Read introduction.

- Cicely Williams, 'Address to Rotary Club, Singapore: Milk and Murder', 1939.

-Friends of the Earth website, https://1bps6437gg8c169i0y1drtgz-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/wpallimport/files/archive/Nanomaterials_sunscreens_and_cosmetics.pdf.

WEEK 12 / May 18: Social Movements, Transnational Advocacy and IOs (the case of La Via Campesina and FAO and the Rights of the Peasants)

Readings:

- Priscilla Claeys, 'The Creation of New Rights by the Food Sovereignty Movement: The Challenge of Institutionalizing Subversion' *Sociology* 46, 5 (2012): 844–860.

- Kathryn Sikkink, A Typology of Relations Between Social Movements and International Institutions *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (American Society of International Law)* Vol. 97 (APRIL 2-5, 2003), pp. 301-305.

-Eve Fouilleux, 'A Propos de crises mondiales. Quel rôle de la FAO dans les débats internationaux sur les politiques agricoles et alimentaires ?', *Revue française de science politique* Vol 59, 4 (2009), 757-782.

For further reading:

- Priscilla Claeys, 'From Food Sovereignty to Peasants Rights: An Overview of La Via Campesina's Rights Based Claims over the last 20 years', *Globalization*, 12, 4 (2015), 452-465.

- On the Negotiation Process:

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/WGPLeasants/Session2/ChristopheGolay.pdf>

Week 13/ May 25: CONCLUSION

WEEK 14 / June 1 : NO CLASS / EXTRA OFFICE HOURS