

26.01.2011

Global Energy Governance. **Structure and Development of organizational fields**

How do intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) as well as whole organizational fields in global policy sectors evolve? And how is the structure of such IGO networks related to the respective pattern of production and consumption? We investigate for the first time sector-specific global IGO networks from the theoretical perspective of inter-organizational networks and organizational fields.

More specifically we focus on the inter-institutional global network of IGOs in the international oil and gas sector. Energy, and especially fossil fuels are of considerable politico-strategic importance (relevance): Currently, about one fifth of global trade consists of flows of fossil fuels. Given (re)current challenges and risks in the international trade of energy, questions are raised as to whether and how to institutionally embed market transactions in this field.

First, we will delineate selected challenges of global energy governance and recent discussions how to reorganize this policy field. Then we introduce inter-organizational network theory as an appropriate middle-range theory for conceptualizing global governance in a non-normative way. Applied network analysis is a useful methodology for describing, explaining, and if required, for initiating and reorganizing such IGO networks. Finally, we provide first descriptive results and a pre-factual thought experiment.

Literatur: Thurner, Paul W./Binder, Martin (2009): „EU Transgovernmental Networks. The Emergence of a New Political Space beyond the Nation State?“. In: European Journal of Political Research 48, S. 80-106; Thurner, Paul W. (2008): „Nichtförmliche Verwaltungskooperation der Ministerialbürokratien der EU-Mitgliedstaaten und netzwerkbasierte Zusammenstellung von nationalen und übernationalen Prozessteams“. In: Politische Vierteljahresschrift 41, S. 401-429 (Special Issue: Governance in einer sich wandelnden Welt, Hg.: Schuppert, Gunnar Folke / Michael Zürn).

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Prof. Dr. Paul Thurner

Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München

Geschwister-Scholl-Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Lehrstuhl für Empirische Politikforschung und Policy Analysis

E-Mail: paul.thurner@gsi.uni-muenchen.de



Exzellenzcluster der Universitäten Trier und Mainz „Gesellschaftliche Abhängigkeiten und soziale Netzwerke“

Koordinationsstelle Ü-Projekte

Universitätsring 15

D-54286 Trier

www.netzwerk-exzellenz.uni-trier.de