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# The Authority and Social Legitimacy of International Organizations –

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## Structure of Presentation

- Who is working in the International Relations Research Group?
- What puzzles and questions inform my current research (projects)?
- How do these interests and projects speak to the overall research undertaken by the Chair of IR?



## International Relations Research Group

- Anja Jetschke – Chair
- Bernd Schlipphak – Assistant Professor (or Postdoc)
- Julia Egle – PhD Candidate



## Research Interests and Projects

- Public acceptance of the European Union beyond European borders (example)
- Empirical measurement of the social legitimacy and the authority of international organizations such as the UN or IFIs
- Public support of regional integration processes outside Europe
- Effects of ROs/IOs' behavior on public attitudes toward international and domestic policies, politics and polities.



## Public acceptance of the EU beyond European borders

- Puzzle
  - EU as a normative power needs public acceptance (constructivist)
  - EU as a negotiating actor needs public acceptance (liberal)
  - Research on elite attitudes toward EU reveal EU's behavior as important explanatory factor
- Does the EU's behavior also have an influence on its perception by the public (that is, the citizens) outside European borders?



## Public acceptance of the EU beyond European borders

- Multilevel Model including
  - Individual-Level Data (Pew Global Attitudes Survey)
  - Country-Level Data (Data on a Country's Dependency on Trade with EU, a Country's Dependency on ODA from EU and European countries, etc.)
  - Regional-Level Dummies
- Findings
  - Country-Level Data (as well as Individual-Level Data) actually matters (most significantly, the indicator measuring ODA Dependency) for citizen's feelings toward the EU



## Social Legitimacy and Authority of IOs

- Puzzle
  - International Organizations are more and more thought of as (powerful) managers of Global Governance
  - Studies show that citizens perceive IOs as important actors when it comes to solving problems which cannot be handled anymore on a national level
  - However, other studies question the democratic legitimacy of IOs



## Social Legitimacy and Authority of IOs

- What degree of social legitimacy is attributed to different IOs by the public?
- How can we measure the degree of social legitimacy?
- What factors explain the divergent degrees of legitimacy between different IOs?





## Public Support of Regional Integration Processes

- Puzzle
  - EU example demonstrates that progressive development of European integration depended on permissive consensus
  - When public opposition increased, regional integration stopped (European Constitution, etc.)
  - Role of public opinion in regional integration beyond European borders has not been analyzed before



## Public Support of Regional Integration Processes

- Does public opinion play a role in extra-European regional integration processes?
- What factors inform public opinion on regional integration processes in Asia, Africa and Latin America?



## Effects of ROs/IOs' Behavior on Public Attitudes

- Puzzle
  - Current shifts of citizens toward more nationalist and protectionist positions have been anecdotally ascribed to the intervention of foreign actors (such as the EU or the IMF) in national policy making
  - Also, increasing interdependence between country and effects of global financial crises have been (non-empirically) argued to cause distrust toward national political actors



## Effects of ROs/IOs' Behavior on Public Attitudes

- What factors explain the shift toward more protectionist opinions in the citizenries in European and non-European states?
- What influence does the international financial crisis have had on the public attitudes toward national actors and the national political system?



## Overall Research Fields of IR Research Group

- Comparative Regionalism Research
- Transitional Justice



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Questions and comments are most welcome!

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