



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386



Workshop

The Shifting Patterns of Global Authority: Driving Foreign Policy Change?

Donald Trump's "America First" policy, the (re-)emergence of China from a regional to a global power, and Russia's renewed assertiveness are indications for the instability of a multipolar order and the shifting patterns of global authority. When authority, defined as the legitimate claim for leadership pertaining to a global order, becomes contested, both smaller states and major powers need to adapt their foreign policies. They may forge new alliances or discard old responsibilities and reject leadership themselves. That way, changes in global authority also transform foreign policy choices.

Drawing on Peter Gourevitch's "second-image reversed" perspective, this workshop addresses the topic whether and how changing patterns of authority on the international level lead to changes in foreign, economic and security policies. We expect that reactions by foreign policy decision-makers are embedded in and constituted by domestic perceptions of global authority; that they need to be established through contested political processes with partisan and societal actors holding diverging interests; and that they are shaped by material resources as well as by aspects of policy-learning, historical experiences, and institutional variables.

For students of Foreign Policy Analysis and neighboring disciplines, the question is how the shifting patterns of global authority affect foreign and security policy decisions within different states and regions. This issue entails conceptual aspects, such as how to conceive of authority in a multipolar world and how global authority is linked to normative orders (human rights, universal values) and material elements of power (military, economy). Moreover, how do domestic actors conceive these shifting meridians of authority and what are the policy choices they face? In what way are policy-makers constrained by changing power relations and shifting ascription of authority in the global sphere? How do rising powers, such as China, try to fill the demand for global leadership in view of a supposed decline of US authority under the Trump presidency?

The workshop seeks contributions which address these and related questions. We are especially interested in papers that both engage in theoretical debates and provide empirical evidence for their theses. The workshop is neither limited to specific theoretical schools nor methodological approaches.

Date & Venue: 17-18 September, 2018, Heidelberg Center for American Studies (University of Heidelberg)

Conference Chairs: Florian Böller (HCA) & Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science)

Workshop Program

Monday, September 17

10.00-10.15 Welcome and introduction

I. Authority and Foreign Policy Change

10.15-11.15 Western Hegemony in Crisis and the Reconfiguration of Global Authority

Florian Böller/Sebastian Harnisch (University of Heidelberg)

11.15-11.30 Coffee break

II. Reactions to Shifting Global Authority

11.30-12.30 Still a Sleeping Giant? China's Quest for Global Authority

Deborah Welch Larson (University of California, Los Angeles)

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.00 Europe's Reaction to the American Decline

Guri Rosén/Marianne Riddervold (University of Oslo)

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.30 United Nations as an Arena of Contested Authority

Catherine Hecht (University of Vienna)

18.30 Workshop dinner

Tuesday, September 18

9.00-10.00 Promoting Regional Authority: Saudi-Arabia and the Contested Middle Eastern Order

May Darwich (Durham University)

10.00-11.00 International Authority Shifts and the “Second Image Reversed”: Postcolonial Strategic Framing and Domestic Audiences in India and the South Asian Region

Mischa Hansel (RWTH Aachen)

III. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Authority Change

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.15 Vietnam as a Transformative Moment for U.S. Authority – a Historical Case-Study

Georg Wolff (University of Heidelberg)

12.15-13.00 Concluding discussion, next steps, publication plans

13.00 End of workshop