



IICAS & ILAR

**International Relations  
Speaker Series**

**"External Financing and the  
Adaptation of International  
Organizations. Europe and Beyond"**

**Julia Gray**

Professor, Political Science  
University of Pennsylvania

**Thursday,  
February 6,  
2014**

**12:30 PM - 2:00 PM**

**Social Sciences  
Building (SSB),  
Room 107**

**Register at:**  
<http://iicas.ucsd.edu>

**Event information:**  
[iicas-events@ucsd.edu](mailto:iicas-events@ucsd.edu) or  
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As international organizations endure, they often must adjust to changing circumstances. Yet when organizations expand their scope or change their mandates, is this evidence of useful adaptation or of overextension? Furthermore, is the motivation for those changes coming from the needs of member states, or is it simply an effort on the part of the institutional bureaucracy to survive? Gray's paper demonstrates, as some have suggested, that many regional economic organizations (REOs) have expanded their scope and increased their institutionalization in the past several years. But many have done so in a bid to attract external financing, from international development agencies as well as from the European Union (EU), Canada, the U.S., and -- increasingly -- China. These donors often fund programs that are not in the organization's original mandate. Furthermore, these expansions are often infrequently implemented, and they may be more reflective of donor interests than of member-state initiatives. Additionally, the funding can prolong the life of organizations that are sometimes inefficient. This implies that organizational design, as it evolves, may stem less from the needs of member states and more from the survival instincts of bureaucracies -- thereby challenging the predominant view that international organizations center on member-state bargains, and offering insight as to why some organizations persist despite poor records of implementation. Gray tests these arguments using data on external donor financing of 55 economic organizations, as well as providing case illustrations from the Economic Community for West African States' peacekeeping initiatives, as well as the EU-funded tribunal for the South African Development Community, which was subsequently dissolved