

Project on International Affairs (PIA), the Laboratory on International Law and Regulations (ILAR), European Studies, the Life Long Learning Program of the EU, and the Institute for International, Comparative and Area Studies (IICAS)

with Faculty Coordinators:

Emilie Hafner-Burton, David Lake, Christina Schneider , and David Victor

present



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“Regionalism in the World Polity”

Regional economic agreements are often adopted and rarely implemented. We argue that regionalism reflects a world polity theory (WPT) logic, whereby it is legitimated and promoted through amendments to the “script of statehood” by credentialed experts, ritually and isomorphically taken up by actors as a function of their need for legitimacy, and enacted and reproduced notwithstanding decoupling between embraced and realized goals. We test and find support for these claims on the empirical terrain defined by regional trade agreements (RTAs), using a variety of data and methods. While political economy models have much to tell us about the rise of regionalism, the sociological dynamics of this and related processes of institutional change deserve more attention. Our analysis draws particular attention to the role played by the EU in promoting the regionalist template as a line in the script of modern statehood.

**Thursday, November 20th, 2014
SSB 107 at 3:30 p.m.**

