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Foundation

● Käte Hamburger Dialogue

The Evolution of the G20 from Hub Forum to Global Focal Point

within the frame of the Berlin Summer Dialogue

Berlin Town Hall, Louise-Schroeder-Saal

Wednesday, 25 June 2014, 18.00 hrs- 19.30 hrs

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KÄTE HAMBURGER DIALOGUE

THE EVOLUTION OF THE G20 FROM HUB FORUM TO GLOBAL FOCAL POINT

It is widely held that the “hub” forum of global governance has hit serious obstacles. The G20’s record in preventing a return to a 1930s-like depression (an era in which an equivalent institution was noticeably absent) is impressive: the promotion of parallel albeit not equivalent national initiatives on stimulus spending, concerted efforts to push for financial regulatory reform, and the maintenance of global trade flows and the avoidance of protectionist measures. In terms of the architecture of global governance, the G20 signaled a move away from the exclusivity of the G7/8 with greater space for inclusion beyond the old establishment.

In many ways these constraints go hand in hand with policy differentiation as a result of divergent national circumstances and interests. Without fears of a collective dive, political leaders have incentives to act in an autonomous fashion: using a mix of self-help, deal-making with selective partners, and “routing around” international institutions.

Yet, with the end of any image of command and control, some key points about global governance retain their salience. If autonomy has made a come back the forces of complex independence are not in retreat. Institutionally, moreover, the constraints placed on the G20 have not been accompanied by a revival of the UN.

What we are seeing therefore is a hybrid template in which there is a return to some elements of decision-making at the national/local level while at the same time there is a deeper process of networking at the global level. The G20 was instrumental in giving rise of the BRICS, but also to some components of middle-power interaction. The G20 also revealed the importance of some key international NGOs and other non-state actors, such as the Gates Foundation. We are also seeing signs in parallel an acceleration albeit uneven processes of regionalism beyond the EU. Is this just evidence of a problematic “messy” global governance or are there innovative signs of a new informal problem-solving culture?

Chair

Dagmar Dehmer

Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin

18.00 hrs

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Tobias Debiel

Director, Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21),
Duisburg-Essen,

Member of the Executive Committee of the Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

18.10 hrs

Inputs

Professor Andrew Cooper

Senior Fellow, Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research
(KHK/GCR21), Duisburg-Essen,

University of Waterloo, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Professor Siddharth Malavarapu

Senior Fellow, Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research
(KHK/GCR21), Duisburg-Essen

Chairperson, Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi

Dr Mzukisi Qobo

Vice Director, Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation

University of Pretoria

18.50 hrs

Plenary Discussion

19.30 hrs

Get-together