

## **: Programme**

# **International sef: Expert Workshop Goodbye to elitism: Anchoring global governance in societies**

**25/26 September 2018**

**University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg - Building LS, Room LS 105**

**Conference language**

English

**Supported by**

The State Government of  
North Rhine-Westphalia





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## THE TOPIC

Continued economic and technological globalisation and the rising number of transboundary challenges have created an increasingly dense web of global cooperative relationships and international/transnational governance regimes in recent decades. At the same time, the circle of those involved in formulating and implementing these arrangements has extended far beyond governments, with civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders now contributing to these processes to varying degrees. Ultimately, however, they too comprise a small transnational elite. The democratic legitimisation of global governance thus remains a challenge.

At the national level, global cooperation issues have traditionally played a subordinate role in political debate and in voters' decisions at the ballot box. Global developments tend to gain attention only when they are perceived as a threat - or when they are used by governments to divert attention away from their own domestic policy failures.

However, in Western democratic societies, burgeoning populist forces are currently adept at exploiting the public's fears of a possible decline and loss of status for their own purposes. These fears stem from the actual or perceived negative consequences of seemingly relentless economic and cultural globalisation, depicted by populist politicians as a form of global cooperation which solely benefits a tiny elite. The alternative peddled by populists consists of an introspective refocusing of attention on the national sphere, and a rejection of multilateralism in favour of bilateral agreements whose sole purpose is ostensibly to serve the national interest.

The opponents of global cooperation touch a nerve when they talk about global governance as an elitist project. The democratisation of global governance has been the subject of intense debate and research since the early 1990s, and yet in practice, the embedding of global governance at a societal level remains relatively weak.

This Workshop therefore aims to identify current developments and new strategies which can contribute to the progressive anchoring of global governance in society. In light of the critical appraisal of the "cosmopolitan democracy" debate, it will analyse three currently observable trends, asking whether they can contribute to greater legitimacy – in the sense of improved participation, scrutiny and problem-solving – and hence to broader societal acceptance of global governance:

1. the growing mobilisation and influence of cities as new players in shaping global politics from the bottom up ('urban geopolitics'),
2. the greater transparency of global debates and decision-making processes through the use of digital and social media, and perceptions and impact of these media,
3. the trend towards more flexible global agreements, particularly as regards their implementation and stake holders.

The purpose of the Workshop is to gain a clearer picture of these trends and their potential for anchoring global governance more broadly within society, and to identify the challenges associated with this process.

# : Tuesday, 25 September 2018

12.30 hrs	Registration and light refreshments
13.00 hrs	Welcome <b>Jürgen Hein</b> Director European and International Affairs Director Task Force Ruhr-Conference State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia
13.15 hrs	Introduction <b>Dr Michèle Roth</b> Executive Director Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn <b>Dr Cornelia Ulbert</b> Executive Director Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University Duisburg-Essen

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## PART I

### COSMOPOLITAN DEMOCRACY: PERSPECTIVES IN AN AGE OF NATIONALIST POPULISTS

Lead questions:

- Since the 1990s, an entire branch of research has been preoccupied with strengthening the democratic legitimacy of global governance. How has the “cosmopolitan democracy” approach evolved during this period?
- How much progress towards the democratisation of global governance has been achieved so far?
- In light of current counter-trends, what does the future hold for cosmopolitan democracy?

13.30 hrs	Inputs <b>Professor Daniele Archibugi</b> Professor of Innovation, Governance and Public Policy Birbeck University of London <b>Dr Hande Paker</b> Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences Bahcesehir University
14.00 hrs	Plenary debate  Chair <b>Dr Cornelia Ulbert</b>
14.45 hrs	Short break

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## PART II

### “URBAN GEOPOLITICS”: TRANSCENDING NATIONALITY THROUGH “GLOCAL” GOVERNANCE?

Lead questions:

- Where do cities stand in their efforts to exert greater influence over the shaping of global and regional governance?
- How do local politicians justify their participation in global and regional politics?
- To what extent does urban engagement in the global and regional arena feed back into local politics?  
Or put differently, does urban society generally support and participate in this engagement?

15.00 hrs

Inputs

**Professor Craig Johnson**

Professor of Political Science

University of Guelph

**Professor Anél du Plessis (via Skype)**

Acting Director Research, Research Unit: Law, Justice and Sustainability

North-West University, Potchefstroom

Comment

**Monika Zimmermann**

Former Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI World Secretariat

Former Member, Advisory Board, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

15.40 hrs

Plenary debate

Chair

**Monika Zimmermann**

Former Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI World Secretariat

Former Member, Advisory Board, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

16.30 hrs

Coffee break

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## **PART III**

### **DIGITAL MEDIA: A SILVER BULLET FOR ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY?**

Lead questions:

- To what extent do digitalisation and the ensuing availability and processing of information promote transparency in regional and global governance?
- Who are the main beneficiaries of this new transparency? Does it help to increase societies' knowledge of global linkages and global governance?
- How are the digital media changing regional and global politics? Is a new transnational public space emerging?

17.00 hrs

Inputs

**Dr Corneliu Bjola**

Associate Professor in Diplomatic Studies in the Department of International Development  
University of Oxford

**Dr Iris Korthagen**

Researcher  
Rathenau Instituut, The Hague

Comment

**Dieter Reinl**

Head of division "Citizens' Dialogue and Public Diplomacy (Germany): Foreign Policy in Germany"  
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

17.40 -18.30 hrs

Plenary debate

Chair

**Dr Anne Grüne**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Media and Communication, University of Erfurt

19.00 hrs

Informal Dinner at Ristorante/Pizzeria Palazzo, Duisburg

# : Wednesday, 26 September 2018

9.00 hrs

Welcome coffee

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## **PART IV**

### **COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED GOVERNANCE:**

#### **DOES FLEXIBILITY IN GOVERNANCE PROVISIONS FOSTER THEIR EFFICIENCY?**

Lead questions:

- What do the advocates of more flexible international agreements hope to achieve? Does their approach make these agreements more effective?
- Will this greater flexibility automatically increase the influence of national and local parliaments in international politics?
- What are the risks associated with this trend towards more flexibility, and how can they be addressed?

09.15 hrs

Input

**Dr Jonathan W. Kuyper**

Postdoctoral Fellow - Department of Political Science  
University of Oslo

Comments

**Dr Harris Gleckman**

Senior Fellow at the Center on Governance and Sustainability  
University of Massachusetts, Boston

**Johannes Norpoth**

Researcher  
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University of Duisburg-Essen

09.50 hrs

Plenary debate

Chair

**Dr Clara Brandi**

Senior Researcher and Head of Klimalog  
DIE - German Development Institute, Bonn

10.45 hrs

Coffee break and light refreshments

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## PART V

### COUNTERING ELITISM IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: THE WAY FORWARD

Lead questions:

- Under the current political conditions, can any particularly promising strategies be identified to counter elitism in global governance and anchor global cooperation more firmly in society?
- What role can the various stakeholders (governments/parliaments/cities/civil society/business/academia) play in this context? How much scope is there for further transnationalisation and democratisation of global governance?
- What can be done to ensure that the newly emergent multiple centres of political authority comply with legitimacy criteria? How can meta-governance beyond a “world state” or world parliament be guaranteed and developed?

11.15 hrs

Roundtable discussion

**Nicole Bogott**

Co-founder

impACT, Berlin/Kabul

**Dr Harris Gleckman**

Senior Fellow at the Center on Governance and Sustainability

University of Massachusetts, Boston

**Professor Nora McKeon**

Faculty Member International University College Turin,

Lecturer Rome 3 University, Rome

**Dr Fritz Nganje**

Lecturer in International Relations

University of Johannesburg

12.15 hrs

Plenary debate

Chair

**Professor Tobias Debiel**

Director, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University of Duisburg-Essen

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

13.00 hrs

Closing words by the organisers