

The legitimacy of governing development

Conveners:

Nora Stappert, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, nora.stappert@gu.se

Fredrik Söderbaum, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg,

fredrik.soderbaum@globalstudies.gu.se

With authority being delegated to global and regional governance institutions, the question of their legitimacy has taken center stage. On the one hand, global and regional governance institutions themselves have taken an increasing interest in whether their decisions and procedures are being perceived as legitimate. On the other hand, several global and regional governance institutions have encountered substantial challenges to their legitimacy, both historically and in more recent years.

This panel seeks to bring together research on the legitimacy, as well as processes of legitimation and delegitimation, of global and regional governance arrangements in the field of development.

The panel is convened by members of *Legitimacy in Global Governance (LegGov)*, a six-year research program which focuses on why, how, and with what consequences global governance institutions gain, sustain and lose legitimacy? The LegGov program is funded by The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation and carried out jointly by researchers from the Departments of Political Science at Lund and Stockholm University, and the School of Global Studies.

Potential papers

The panel welcomes both historical and contemporary analyses, as well as both normative and empirical approaches. Papers may address questions and themes such as:

- To what extent are the development policies of global and regional governance institutions — such as the World Bank, the United Nations, the WHO, IOM, EU, AU, ASEAN, and so forth — regarded as legitimate?
- How and through what strategies have these and other global and regional governance institutions legitimized themselves and their development policies?
- In what ways has legitimation of development policy changed over time? To what extent is there any “rethinking of development” in current practices of governing development?
- How is the legitimacy of governing development beyond the nation-state similar to or different from the legitimacy of governing development within the nation-state?
- Which legitimacy challenges have global and regional governance institutions faced, and from which audiences?
- How, why and through what strategies are global and regional governance institutions delegitimized?
- What are the consequences of legitimacy (or its absence) for the functioning of global and regional governance institutions? What is the link between legitimacy and performance of global and regional governance institutions? What is the link between legitimacy and development outcomes?