



### The Diffusion of Ideas...

The diffusion of ideas has become a central research theme in political science, sociology, law, history, and economics. In this context, the Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) focuses on how ideas are spread across time and space, as can be observed especially in the European Union in various socio-political fields. We concentrate on the European Union (EU) as an almost ideal laboratory for investigating processes and outcomes of diffusion:

- European integration itself can be described as an effort to promote the diffusion of ideas across Europe and beyond
- European societies and polities emulate each other
- Europe and the EU also serve as active promoters of diffusion processes toward the outside world
- European integration is embedded in and responds to larger global diffusion processes

### Three Research Areas

The KFG examines the role of the EU as promoter and recipient of ideas, analyzing the mechanisms and effects of internal and external diffusion processes in three research areas.

- Compliance, Conditionality, and Beyond

How and to what extent have European ideas transformed the political-administrative, economic, social, and cultural institutions of nation-states within and outside the EU? Which conditions foster and retract the diffusion of European ideas? Most importantly, how do the different diffusion mechanisms interact?

- Identity and the Public Sphere

We explore how the diffusion of ideas through and by the European Union affects collective identities and their Europeanization. In what way do transnational public discourses contribute to the diffusion of ideas? Can we observe a process by which new member states incorporate Europe and the EU into their collective identity narratives? And how can we explain these diffusion processes?

- Comparative Regionalism and Europe's External Relations

The EU perceives itself as a model for effective and legitimate governance to be emulated by other countries and regions. What are the effects of these efforts at diffusing regionalism as a distinctively European idea? How are these efforts perceived by non-European partners? How has the EU dealt with challenges to its "normative power" by national, international and transnational actors who reject European ideas and their normative hegemony?



Members of the KFG (2009)

### Research Directors

Prof. Dr. Tanja A. Börzel  
Prof. Dr. Thomas Risse



### Participating Scholars

Prof. Dr. Helge Berger (FU Berlin)  
Prof. Dr. Christian Calliess (FU Berlin)  
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Gerhards (FU Berlin)  
Prof. Dr. Klaus H. Goetz (University of Potsdam)  
Prof. Dr. Markus Jachtenfuchs (Hertie School of Governance)  
Prof. Dr. Ingolf Pernice (HU Berlin)  
Prof. Dr. Barbara Pfetsch (FU Berlin)

### Fellow Program and Promotion of Junior Researchers

The Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) seeks and encourages the academic exchange of representatives of various disciplines – nationally and internationally. The KFG pools systematically competences on processes of diffusion as well as on fundamental research related to Europe in the Berlin-Potsdam Area.

With its sabbatical program, (post-)doctoral fellowships and the invitation of top senior fellows like Vivien A. Schmidt, Jolyon Howorth, Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks, the KFG provides its members the optimal environment and time for intensive research and theory development.