

Challenges to the Liberal International Order (Project Seminar, Part I and II)

Summer Term 2021

Monday, 16.00-20.00, online seminar, start: April 12, 18.00

Since at least World War II and incorporated into the UN Charter, various liberal principles have characterized the international order, such as self-determination, basic human rights, an open international economic system, as well as rule-based and principled multilateralism. For the past ten years or so, this liberal international order (LIO) has increasingly being contested from both within its core (right- and left-wing populism) and from without (rise of China, Russia, etc.). This research seminar (*Projektkurs*) is designed to describe as well as explain these challenges to the LIO. Section I of the seminar consists of two parts. Part 1 is devoted to various substantive issues pertaining to the LIO and its contestations including critical perspectives on the LIO. Part 2 introduces students to basic issues of research design and (qualitative) methodology. In Section II of the seminar, students will present and discuss outlines of their research papers (*Projektkursarbeiten*).

The *Projektkurs* is targeted at MA students in the various study programs. Students have to sign up for both parts. Research papers are supposed to critically investigate various challenges to the LIO pertaining to specific issue-areas of world politics (international economy, security, human rights etc.), to specific countries (e.g. U.S., Turkey, Russia, China etc.) or to world regions.

Introductory Literature:

- Ikenberry, G. John (2020) *A World Safe for Democracy? Liberal Internationalism and the Crisis of Global Order* (New Haven CT: Yale University Press), available online via Primo
- Lake, D., Martin, L., Risse, T., eds., (2021) „Challenges to the Liberal International Order,” 75th anniversary issue of *International Organization*, available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-organization/information/io-75th-anniversary-issue>
- Friedman, R., Oskanian, K., Pardo, R.P., eds. (2013) *After Liberalism? The Future of Liberalism in International Relations* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan), available at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1057/9781137303769> (through FU Berlin)

The required readings can be found either through FU online sources (e.g. Primo) or **Blackboard**.

Course Requirements:

1. Students have to serve as discussants in both the substantive and the research design parts of the seminar.
2. Students have to turn in a 3-4 page outline for a research paper on **June 1, 2021**, which is then to be presented and discussed in class starting June 14.
3. Students have to turn in a research paper (ca. 8000 words) at the end of the term, that is **September 30, 2021**.

Course Schedule and Readings

(Work in Progress)

April 12, 2021 **Introduction**

Section I

April 19 **Part 1: The Liberal International Order – What Are We Talking About?**

Required readings

Lake, D./Martin, L./Risse, T. (2021), "Challenges to the Liberal Order: Reflections on International Organization", *International Organization*, 75
Ikenberry, G. J. (2020), *A World Safe for Democracy?* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press), ch.1

Part 2: What Is a Research Question?

Required readings

Gschwend, T./Schimmelfennig, F. (2011), Introduction: Designing Research in Political Science – A Dialogue between Theory and Data, in Gschwend, T./Schimmelfennig, F., *Research Design in Political Science. How to Practice What They Preach*, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave, Macmillan, 1-18
Lehnert, M., Miller, B., and Wonka, A. (2011), Increasing the Relevance of Research Questions: Considerations on Theoretical and Social Relevance in Political Science, *ibid.*, 21-38

April 26 **Part 1: Western and Non-Western Origins of the LIO**

Ikenberry, G.J. (2020), *A World Safe for Democracy?* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press), ch. 2
Tourinho, M. (2021), "The Co-Constitution of Order," *International Organization* 75.
Berger, T. (2021), "Postcolonial Worldmaking: the interactions between domestic and international order scripts in India," manuscript

Part 2: Concept Formation, Variables, and Indicators

Required readings:

Gerring, J. (2012), *Social Science Methodology*, ch. 5, 6

May 3 **Part 1: Critical Perspectives on a Not So Liberal International Order**

Required readings

Jahn, B. (2013), "Liberalism – In Theory and History," in: *After Liberalism? The Future of Liberalism in International Relations*, edited by R. Friedman, K. Oskanian and R. P. Pardo (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan)

Reus-Smit, C. (2013), "The Liberal International Order Reconsidered," in: *After Liberalism? The Future of Liberalism in International Relations*, edited by R. Friedman, K. Oskanian and R. P. Pardo (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan)

Buzas, Z.I. (2021), "Racism and Antiracism in the Liberal International Order," *International Organization* 75

Part 2: Forward and Backward Looking Research Designs

Required readings

Scharpf, F.W. (1997), *Games Real Actors Play*, Boulder, CO: Westview, 19-35.

Sieberer, U. (2011), "Selecting Independent Variables: Competing Recommendations for Factor-Centric and Outcome-Centric Research Designs", in Gschwend/Schimmelfennig (eds.), *Research Design in Political Science*, 163-182

May 10

Study Week

May 17

Part1: Challenges to the LIO: Contestations of International Institutions

Required readings:

Börzel, T., Zürn, M. (2021), "Contestations of the Liberal International Order: From Liberal Multilateralism to Postnational Liberalism," *International Organization* 75

De Vries, C.E., Hobolt, S. B., Walter, S. (2021), "Politicizing International Cooperation: The Mass Public, Political Entrepreneurs, and Political Opportunity Structures," *International Organization* 75

Part 2: Case Study Research I: Methods of Comparison

Required readings:

Gerring, J. (2007) *Case Study Research*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 2 "What is a case study?", ch. 3 "What is a case study good for?"

May 31

Part 1: External Challengers to the LIO: China and Russia

Required readings:

Weiss, J.C., Wallace, J. L. (2021), "Domestic Politics, China's Rise, and the Future of the Liberal International Order," *International Organization* 75

De Graaff, N., Van Apeldoorn, B. (2018) "US-China relations and the liberal world order: contending elites, colliding visions?" *International Affairs* 94 (1): 113-131

Bluhm, K. (2018), "Russia's conservative counter-movement: Genesis, actors, and core concepts," in: *New Conservatives in Russia and East Central Europe*, ed. by Bluhm, K., Varga, M. (London: Routledge)

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Part 2: Case Study Research II: Case Selection

Required readings:

Gerring J. (2007), *Case Study Research*, ch. 5

George, A./Bennett, A. (2005) *Case Studies and Theory Development...*, ch. 4 and 5

June 7

Part 1: Internal Challengers to the LIO: The Rise of Populism

Required readings:

Holm, M., Tjalve, V. S. (2018), Visions of an Illiberal World Order? The National Right in Europe, Russia, and the U.S., *Policy Paper* (Oslo: NUPI)

Copelovitch, M./Pevehouse, J.C.W. (2019), "International organizations in a new era of populist nationalism" *The Review of International Organizations* 14 (2): 169-186

Söderbaum, F., Spandler, K., Pacciardi, A. (2021), *Contestations of the Liberal International Order: A Populist Script of Regional Cooperation*, Elements in International Relations (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

Section II: Discussion of Research Paper Outlines

June 14

Discussion of Research Paper Outlines 1

(June 21)

Study Week

(June 28)

Discussion of Research Paper Outlines 2

July 5

Discussion of Research Paper Outlines 3

July 12

Concluding Session