Reading List

International Political Economy of Finance and the current economic crisis

PhD- Seminar
European University Institute, 20/21 May 2010

Session 1:
Inter-bank competition and the dynamics of regulatory reforms

Daniel K. Mügge
Assistant Professor of International Political Economy and International Relations
University of Amsterdam

Outline of the session:
This session concentrates on the role of financial firms in regulatory politics. It first contrasts different theories of such politics and establishes which role firms are ascribed in them, and why. It proceeds to contextualize such depictions of regulatory politics in more encompassing understandings of political life, before honing in on EU capital market regulation as a particular case study of firm influence. The final section of this session will be devoted to post-crisis regulatory reforms: what role have banks in this process, and what does their position in regulatory politics imply for the direction of future policy?

Required Reading:

Session 2:
Judgment and Epistemic Authority in International Political Economy

Timothy J. Sinclair
Associate Professor of International Political Economy
University of Warwick

Organization of the session:
1. Comments on conceptualizing private systems of judgment and epistemic authority [30-minutes]. Followed by discussion [20 minutes]. 10 minute break.
2. Comments on rating agencies [30 minutes] as example of (1). Followed by discussion [20 minutes]. 10 minute break.

3. Comments on constructivist research design and field work [30 minutes]. Followed by discussion [20 minutes].

Some (very) Preliminary Questions:
1. What is the extent and significance of private systems of judgment and epistemic authority?
2. Where do these private systems come from? Why do they exist? Why do we care about them?
3. How do private systems of judgment and epistemic authority interact with the state?
4. Are rating agencies typical of private governance systems?
5. What are the challenges faced by rating agencies?
6. How come the rating agencies have survived?
7. What is a constructivist approach to research design?
8. What are the key dynamics of elite interviewing?

Required Reading:

Session 3: 
Discourse Analysis and Financial Crises

Oliver Kessler
Professor (Acing) for International Political Theory
Ludwig Maximilians University Munich

And

Andreas Langenohl
Assoc. Professor for Economic Sociology
University of Konstanz

This session provides a reconstruction of the current reform debate and explores some avenues for more discourse oriented approaches to the current crisis. The session will concentrate on three questions

1. Framing discourses: recent work on performativity, materiality and practices
2. The structure of the reform debate
3. Discourses, memory and expertise

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Andre Broome, “The Importance of Being Earnest: The IMF as a Reputational


