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governance across borders transnational fields and transversal themes

Edited by
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*governance
across borders*

a blogbook

Transnational Fields and Transversal Themes

Assembling the best contributions from the research blog governance across borders, the volume covers issues of cross-border governance in a range of transnational fields, and engages with a multiplicity of transversal themes. Each section contains several topically related blog posts.

Transnational Studies and Governance

Governance across borders, or transnational governance, looks at rule-making, standard-setting and institution-building across borders. As yet there is no real discipline of transnational studies, but merely a fragmented body of scholarship across sub-fields of sociology and other social science disciplines. To engage in dialogue with and learn from the insights of these studies, some general questions on transnationalism are raised here.



Accounting across Borders: Fairness, Fair Value and Financial Markets

Among the transnational governance fields covered in this book, accounting and finance are the arena where the myth of efficient self-regulating markets has been most prevalent in the years prior to the financial crisis – and most damaged since. The contributions show how the crisis opened a policy space in which sometimes surprising coalitions of actors emerged to demand regulatory reforms.

Labor and Development: Standardizing Progress?

In comparison to other transnational governance fields, labor rights and working conditions are still

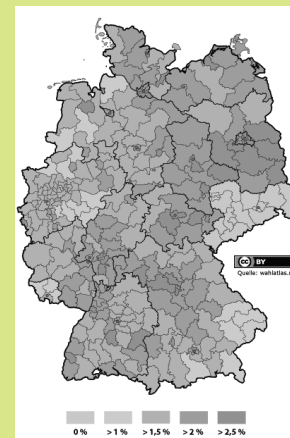
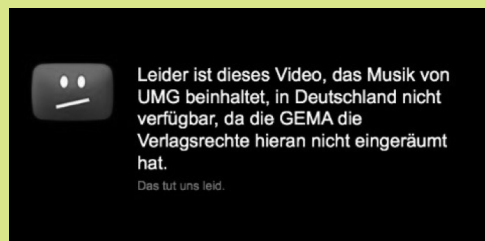
predominately regulated at the domestic level by tripartite industrial relations between state, business and trade unions. However, contributions in this section discuss the rise, development and outcomes of labor rights activism and transnational labor governance arrangements, focusing on Asia and particularly on China.

Governing our Environment: Standardizing across Borders

This section focuses on the field of transnational environmental governance, emphasizing the multiplicity of its forms and the actors involved. Particularly the emergence and diffusion of transnational environmental standards has created new interactions between various forms of governance and actors. The contributions emphasize the importance of the interactions between multiple levels within a transnational environmental governance system – transnational, national and local.

Transnational Copyright: From ACTA to Open Licensing

While governance across borders is often associated with the absence of hard law, the transnational field of copyright regulation shows that private rule-setting via standards might also occur where there is already extensive state regulation in place. In this context, the variety and intensity of private enforcement measures as well as standardized open content licensing illustrate both the power of private regulatory initiatives in the market sphere and the political struggles they provoke. Furthermore, the articles in this section illustrate how nationally established monopolists such as copyright collectives struggle with challenges stemming from technological and institutional change on the transnational level.



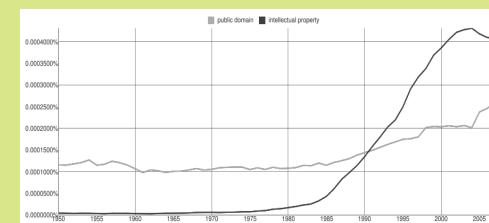
Piracy, Pirates and Pirate Parties: A Transnational Movement

Started in January 2009 and dealing with issues of transnational copyright from the very beginning, the blog has tracked the rise of the transnational pirate party movement in real-time.

Taken together, the articles in this section on piracy and pirate parties suggest that the current regime of intellectual property rights is in disarray, and regulatory responses have fueled – if not created – political resistance rather than dampened it.

Open Access, Scientific Publishing and Copyright

An academic blog dealing with copyright issues must also address copyright-related issues in academia itself. Of course, scientific publishing has been affected by the digital revolution: the utopian vision of worldwide equally open access to research is a practical possibility, but implementing open access policies has proven to be far from easy.



Questioning Microcredit Myths

In the popular literature on microcredit, a number of claims repeatedly made deserve a closer look, particularly since the media are full of heartwarming stories about the work of microfinance institutions. Engaging in a critical analysis of some of these myths, this section debates the persistent lack of empirical evidence for microfinance reducing poverty and reflects on the reaction of the microfinance industry to criticism.

Microfinance for Water: More Money, More Problems

A resource necessary for all human existence, water has been part of public governance since the earliest civilisations. But many people in the developing world today suffer from an acute lack of accessible, clean water, which urbanization and climate change are exacerbating. Looking at microcredit schemes directed at this problem, this section investigates why such schemes cause more problems than they solve.



The Andhra Pradesh Microfinance Crisis

The crisis which broke out in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh in 2010 with suicides of dozens of over-indebted borrowers has proven to be a very significant event in the public perception of micro-

finance. The blog posts in this section, written in the heat of the moment, are a testament not only to the dramatic situation faced by borrowers, but also to the manner in which the industry worked to spin events so that it appeared as the actual victim.

Border-crossing Books and Articles

Blogs are the perfect outlet for reviewing books and articles because they invite other readers and the authors themselves to engage in discussion. In the concluding section we present a selection of our book and article reviews from the different fields covered in this volume.

