

Report on the
ISA Catalytic Research Workshop (PWK-05)
Overlapping Regionalism: Drivers, Interactions, Effects

17 February 2015, New Orleans

Report dated 21 March 2015

The workshop took place as scheduled on 17 February 2015 from 9.00am to 6.00pm. Some participants had to cancel their participation because of conflicting schedules (Coleman, Yeo), and one attendee had to cancel on short notice due to illness (Jetschke). All other 15 participants who had been invited to the workshop attended and took an active part in the discussion.

The main objectives of the workshop were a) to discuss current scholarship on overlapping regionalism and to identify avenues for future research; b) to establish an international network of scholars on different levels of seniority and from different backgrounds; and c) to work towards a common research agenda, including publication projects.

Regarding the first objective, the conveners aimed at providing an opportunity to discuss the most relevant definitions, theoretical approaches, and empirical findings that deal with overlapping regionalism. The workshop proceedings were organized around questions that the conveners had addressed previously: 1) concepts and definitions, 2) drivers of overlapping regionalism, and 3) interactions, outcomes, and effects of overlapping regionalism.

In order to structure the discussion and develop a common understanding of concepts and definitions, the conveners prepared a framework paper that dealt with the pertaining literature on overlapping regionalism (Hulse, Stapel and Striebinger). Prior to the workshop all participants received this framework paper and produced either research papers or research memos (3-5 pages) examining interesting theoretical puzzles regarding overlapping regionalism.

Regarding drivers of overlapping regionalism, these included papers that focused on specific regions, such as East Asia (Yeo), East Africa (Mwilima), or Latin America (Nolte), or on a more general cross-regional analysis (Haftel and Hofmann; Panke and Stapel). Regarding the interactions, outcomes and effects of overlapping regionalism, papers dealt with modes of interaction (Brosig, Mattheis), effects on trade performance (Gomez-Mera, Malamud), effects on agenda-setting capacities (Cordenillo), effects in multilateral negotiations (Panke, Lang and Wiedemann) as well as reflections of regional architectures and regional orders more broadly (Nolte).

The workshop did not follow the classic conference format (oral presentations followed by a discussant's feedback). The idea was to have an open and ongoing discussion throughout the day. The conveners kick-started each discussion session, by bringing up particular questions raised by participant papers, by positioning papers in relation to each other, and identifying

commonalities. However, participants did have the chance to briefly present their project, approach and findings. Papers/memos were assigned to these sessions. However, this did of course not mean that input and discussions for the specific slots were restricted to those people named in the program. It was rather an indication for the participants what papers will form the basis of discussion as they more directly spoke to the respective question.

As for the second objective, to establish an international network of scholars on different levels of seniority who are involved in cutting-edge research in the field, the workshop brought together a diverse group of scholars that work in nine different countries (Canada, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, USA), at all levels of seniority (professors, post docs, PhD students), and that work across multiple regional focus areas (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America). The workshop served both to reinforce existing networks that had been established at previous workshops and panels as well as to extend these networks and to establish new links between scholars from multiple backgrounds.

As for the third objective, the workshop participants agreed to explore the possibility of a special issue. A significant amount of time was dedicated to discuss and develop this idea at the end of the workshop. Participants discussed multiple outlets, which were identified as suitable venues to disseminate our research, but no particular outlet has been selected yet. Also, the participants discussed a possible setup for such a special issue, and the conveners committed to take the lead in further exploring this idea. In addition to that, several workshop participants agreed to explore specific possibilities for research grant proposal reflecting the most pressing discussion points of the workshop.

In summary, the workshop created a very productive and intellectually stimulating discussion. The feedback from participants was highly positive, and there are several options for moving forward as a collective. Finally, the workshop went very well and the participants asked the conveners to express their gratitude to the ISA for making the event possible.