

## **Influencing International Relations: Power Politics, Informal Politics, or Both?**

*Summary Venture Workshop 2014 ISA Annual Convention, Toronto*

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### **Summary**

The workshop was held on March 25, 2014 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto. All 18 scholars involved in the project attended the meeting. 15 papers were presented. In addition to the paper givers, three observers participated in the meeting and discussions. Debates clearly benefited from the inputs of the observers whose participation was very much appreciated by all participants.

After a brief introductory session the meeting was launched by a discussion of a discussion paper prepared by the workshop organizers. The paper introduced some basic theoretical and methodological language, raised questions of potential interest for the workshop, and developed potential avenues for a collaborative research endeavor. After the opening discussion, individual papers were presented in four subsequent panels followed by a brief concluding session (for the detailed workshop agenda, see annex I). The four panel sessions consisted of brief presentations of the individual papers (by participants different from the respective author(s)) and extended discussion of each individual paper.

Overall, the meeting was characterized by constructive and stimulating discussions of the discussion paper as well as the individual contributions. Participants explored a range of intriguing research avenues. However, other than initially hoped, the theoretical coherence of the papers was not very high. In addition, the projects presented were at very different stages of their development ranging from prospectus-like sketches to papers that are already conditionally accepted for journals. While the heterogeneity of projects and approaches was very stimulating for the discussions at the meeting, we think it poses a challenge for carrying this endeavor further and aiming for a collective publication. Therefore, we have decided not to propose to use the funding allocated in the budget for a potential follow-up meeting. We would have very much liked to organize a follow-up meeting, but given the broad variety of the papers we had at the Toronto workshop we think it would be difficult to organize a collective publication effort among these papers, in spite of the fact that each of them is individually of excellent quality and highly promising.

### **Budget Accounting**

In total, our approved budget for the workshop in Toronto was 7,939 USD.<sup>1</sup> Since we decided not to set up a website for the project as originally planned, we did not use the 500 USD allocated for this activity. Thus, with 7,439 USD our actual expenses remained slightly below the approved budget. For a detailed accounting of our expenses see table 1.

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<sup>1</sup> A minor budget change that allowed us to reimburse one of our North American participants for two instead of one hotel night and to pay two instead of one per diem was approved by the ISA Workshop Grant Committee on January 1, 2014.

**Table 1** Budget Expenses (in USD)

<b>Items</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Room Rental	200	200	0
Food & Beverage	306	306	0
Audio-Visual	350	350	0
Power	270	270	0
Whiteboard & Markers	75	75	0
Hotel	4,488	3,597	891
Per Diem	1,800	1,800	0
Website	500	0	500
Wire transfers	450	450	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8439</b>	<b>7048</b>	<b>1391</b>

## **Annex I: Workshop Agenda**

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#### AGENDA

*ISA Workshop, Tuesday, 25 March 2014*

Room (Huron, Sheraton Centre Toronto)

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9-10am        | Introduction & framing paper (Stone)<br><br>Stone & Westerwinter (Keohane & Jupille)   |
| 10-11am       | Session 1: Informal Governance Outside IOs<br><br>Voeten (Koremenos)<br>Snidal & Vabulas (Johnson)<br>Westerwinter (Davis)                         |
| 11-11:30am    | Coffee break   |
| 11:30-12:30pm | Session 2: Interactions between IOs and Other Actors<br><br>Davis (Snidal)<br>Verdier (McLean)<br>Campbell (Jakobi)                                |
| 12-2pm        | Lunch break  |
| 2-3:30pm      | Session 3: Informal Governance in IOs: New Mechanisms<br><br>Johnson (Michaelowa)<br>Jakobi (Campbell)<br>Koremenos (Stone)<br>Kleine (Urpelainen) |
| 3:30-4pm      | Coffee break   |
| 4-5:30pm      | Session 4: Informal Governance and Multi-lateral Aid   |

Malik & Stone (Voeten)  
Urpelainen (Westerwinter)  
McLean (Verdier)  
Michaelowa (Kleine)

5:30-  
6pm            Wrap-up, discussion, way ahead (McLean & Westerwinter)

6:30-  
7pm            Dinner at restaurant *Volos*  
133 Richmond Street West