

Transnational governance: The role of communities, networks and private actors

Glenn Morgan | glenn.morgan@bristol.ac.uk

As flows of capital, technology, products and people across national borders have increased, so there has been a growing recognition that such processes cannot be left to market mechanisms or treaties between governments alone. Thus far, we have witnessed the proliferation of different forms of transnational governance that have shaped the rules under which markets function. The transnational sphere is characterised by soft laws, which are created by private actors such as firms, social movements, transnational experts linked to international organizations, inter-governmental agreements and state rule systems. Transnational governance mechanisms shape markets by creating standards, monitoring systems and imposing sanctions (mainly at a reputational level). These are spheres of contestation, particularly between private firms and social movements where struggles between profitability and social values appear the strongest. **Glenn Morgan**, Professor of Management at Bristol University (UK), suggests the following reading material:



TRANSNATIONAL COMMUNITIES: Shaping Global Economic Governance.

Marie-Laure Djelic and Sigrid Quack. UK: Cambridge University Press 2010. 422 p

This edited collection builds on Djelic and Sahlin-Andersson but with a distinctive focus on how actors form themselves into transnational communities that facilitate their participation in transnational institution building. The book provides empirical analyses of 'transnational communities' in different economic activities, from trading networks to global financial markets, open source software and certifications. The final chapter offers a comparison of transnational communities and their role in different settings.



LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: Transnational Regulatory Integration and Development.

László Bruszt and Gerald A. McDermott. UK: Oxford University Press, 2014. 365 p

This edited book focuses on the impact of transnational regulatory processes, such as Transnational Integration Regimes (TIRs), on developing economies. Using a number of case studies, the authors reveal a complex dynamic between the domestic level and regional TIRs (e.g. NAFTA, MERCOSUR and the EU) and private transnational governance systems. Dominant states, their regulators and firms transfer and/or impose standards on weaker states with varying results for firms, labour and upgrading processes.



BUILDING TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS: Civil Society Networks and the Politics of Trade in the Americas.

Marisa von Bülow. UK: Cambridge University Press, 2010. 259 p

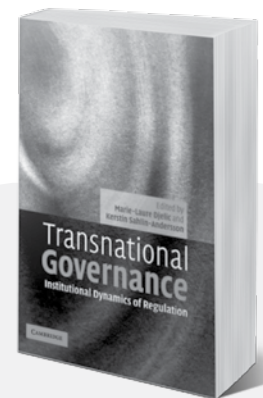
This monograph examines how the development of regional trade agreements, particularly NAFTA and MERCOSUR, have generated resistance from local actors in four countries, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and the United States, leading these actors to join in the creation of transnational social movements that might be able to influence the eventual form of these agreements. The book shows how national specificities have influenced capacities and interests of national groups to join in long-term transnational cooperation.



KNOWLEDGE ACTORS AND TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE: The Private-Public Policy Nexus in the Global Agora.

Diane Stone. UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. 239 p

Stone's book examines the role of negotiation and knowledge networks in the development of transnational governance. She offers a series of case studies on different aspects of the interface between research and policy. Advocacy and argumentation developed through knowledge networks have become key features of transnational governance, as they represent the effort to produce common understanding of problems and solutions, which materialise in particular forms and processes of governance.



TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE: Institutional Dynamics of Regulation.

Marie-Laure Djelic and Kerstin Sahlin-Andersson. UK: Cambridge University Press, 2006. 462 p

This book discusses the key forces that lie behind the development of transnational regulation and provides a series of chapters dealing with certain key concepts such as soft law, governance without government and multi-level institutional dynamics. The book section focuses on (1) Institutional Forces shaping the transnational sphere, (2) a number of specific fields where transnational governance has emerged and (3) case studies of these processes in fields such as accounting, competition law and emissions trading.