



BOOK SYMPOSIUM

Symposium: Authority, legitimacy, and contestation in global governance

Guest Editors: Orfeo Fioretos^{1*}  and Jonas Tallberg² 

¹Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA and ²Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

*Corresponding author. E-mail: fioretos@temple.edu

(Received 26 June 2020; accepted 26 June 2020; first published online 28 December 2020)

Abstract

As global governance institutions appear increasingly contested by state and non-state actors alike, understanding their origin, operation, and impact is becoming ever more urgent. This symposium uses Michael Zürn's *A Theory of Global Governance: Authority, Legitimacy, and Contestation* (OUP, 2018) as a springboard to explore the state of global governance theory. *A Theory* opens new terrain and advances bold and original arguments, including the contention that global governance is itself best understood as a political system. It analyzes a cycle from rising authority beyond the state through the 20th century, to ensuing legitimation problems toward the century's end, to the politicization and contestation triggered by such problems. A book of such ambition inevitably elicits queries within diverse international relations research communities. This symposium features seven articles from diverse traditions in engagement with *A Theory's* understanding of global contestation, authority, and legitimacy. These are followed by a response from Zürn. An introduction situates *A Theory* within extant research on global governance, highlights its endogenous theory of global politics, and identifies the stakes of deepening research on the sources of global authority, contestation, and political legitimation.

Keywords: global governance; international organizations; authority; contestation; legitimacy; reflexivity

Contents

- 99–111 Politics and Theory of Global Governance
ORFEO FIORETOS AND JONAS TALLBERG
- 112–121 The Global Politics Paradigm: Guide to the Future or Only the Recent Past?
ROBERT O. KEOHANE
- 122–130 Rule and Resistance in Global Governance
NICOLE DEITELHOFF AND CHRISTOPHER DAASE
- 131–143 Change in or of Global Governance?
MICHAEL BARNETT

- 144–156 Global Governance in the Age of Epistemic Authority
VINCENT POULIOT
- 157–168 Locating (New) Materialist Characters and Processes in Global Governance
ANNA LEANDER
- 169–178 Governance by Other Means: Rankings as Regulatory Systems
JUDITH KELLEY AND BETH A. SIMMONS
- 179–191 Beyond Institutionalism: Toward a Transformed Global Governance Theory
JAN AART SCHOLTE
- 192–204 On the Role of Contestation, the Power of Reflexive Authority, and
Legitimation Problems in the Global Political System
MICHAEL ZÜRN