



Advanced Social Network Analysis Seminar Series - II/2017

Who? Thomas Malang, University of Konstanz
What? Friends with Benefits. Explaining the Global Pattern of Parliamentary Diplomacy.
When? May, 19, 2017; 13:30 - 14:30
Where? FC-D77, Eawag main building, Dübendorf (ZH)

Seminar Details

Thomas Malang is senior researcher at the chair for international relations and conflict research at the University of Konstanz. His research interests are in parliamentary cooperation and European integration and he will present his most recent work on parliamentary diplomacy.

Abstract:

Whereas there is currently a lot of scholarly attention toward new powers and functions that national parliaments develop in international politics, there is hardly any study that investigates in which regions and other countries parliaments are interested in, how they gain information and develop expertise, and if parliamentary cooperation has an effect on governmental action. The paper presents newly collected data on the foreign relations between 155 parliaments through parliamentary contact groups, the main organizational form of parliamentary diplomacy. Analogously to standard diplomatic relations, these groups serve as a direct information channel between chambers and could possibly lead to value transmission and mutual trust. The goal of the paper is to explain the global pattern of parliamentary diplomatic contacts. Deduced from classic IR theories, I try to explain the global network structure by using different standard explanatory variables like economic interests, shared democratic norms, and cultural similarities. I argue that compared to formal diplomatic recognition of governments, parliamentary exchange is largely determined by political instead of economic factors. Whereas parliaments in full democracies choose other democratic chambers and powerful parliaments as a target of parliamentary relations, legislative chambers in autocracies seek contact to full democracies to enhance their democratic recognition. The results are based on quantitative network analysis conducted with an exponential random graph model.

Aim of the Seminar Series

The Seminar Series' aim is to foster the exchange among SNA scholars in the region and discussing SNA methods and recent developments. The idea is that each of us has the opportunity to present her/his current work in an informal setting and to get feedback from the other participants. We aim at presenting early-stage research as well as papers ready to submit. In cases where a paper already exists, the manuscript should be circulated in advance in order to enable people to read it. Please let us know if you are interested in attending the meeting so we can put you on the mailing list. Also don't hesitate to inform us if you would like to present your own work or have an idea of a person/research group to invite. Finally, please circulate the invitation to people who might be interested.

The seminars are organized by Karin Ingold, Manuel Fischer, Philip Leifeld and Laurence Brandenberger. For more information, please contact laurence.brandenberger@eawag.ch.

Directions to Eawag

Public Transport: From Zurich Main Station (HB): S-train (S3, S9, S12) to Stettbach, change to tram 12, exit at 'Giessen'.

From Zurich Oerlikon: train S14 to Dübendorf, change to bus 760, exit at 'Empa'.

From Zurich-Airport: tram 12, exit at 'Neugut' or 'Giessen'.

By car: Motorway A1, exit Dübendorf, to the right towards Dübendorf, 300 meters after the major crossing turn left into the Eawag-Empa premises at Überlandstrasse 133, 8600 Dübendorf.

