



The Review of International Organizations

Oxford, United Kingdom, March 2021

Call for Papers

Dear colleagues,

The *Review of International Organizations* will publish a special issue “The Power of the Weak in International Organizations,” and we invite you to submit an article for the issue.

The special issue addresses the following themes. The first IOs were created by powerful states, arguably for powerful states and governmental and market elites. But many current members of IOs, and the great majority of potential members, are not great powers. And a host of other non-state actors have largely been excluded until very recently. While institutions are often thought to give weaker actors greater power by regularizing and legalizing relations, the literature has not sufficiently explored how and under what conditions IOs increase the power of weaker actors, and how and under what conditions they do not. This old but unresolved debate now has new significance given the increasing focus on geopolitical competition between established and emerging powers, proliferation of informal IOs, as well as the increasing participation by both large firms and civil society groups. Are IOs still merely another field for power politics, or can we expect them to empower new and smaller actors? We invite papers that examine the strategies that weak actors have developed and pursued to advance their influence in, and outcomes from, IOs. These can include bureaucratic efforts to change IOs from within, new access for non-state actors, coalition-building among weak states to change the rules and practices of IOs, forum shopping among IOs, or efforts to create new alternative IOs or alternative forms of governance such as transnational professional networks and private-public alliances. We encourage both theoretical and empirical contributions on topics including economic interdependence, the environment, security, human rights, and all of the many issue areas addressed by formal and informal IOs.

The deadline for submissions for the special issue is April 15, 2022. Submissions should be made through Editorial Manager (<http://www.editorialmanager.com/roio/>), indicating that the submission is to the special issue (“SI: The power of the Weak”).

Sincerely,

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Guest Editors, *Review of International Organizations*