

Abstract

The target of this research is to reveal causal factors that influence the way policy goals and instruments of international organizations in the domain of human trafficking are designed. By tracking evolutions of anti-trafficking policies undergone by the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the thesis demonstrates impact of specific factors on changes in the functioning of international organizations.

To unravel mechanism explaining the internal workings of a policy formation within an IO, the thesis considers and tests theoretical assumptions of three rivalling theories on institutions; the realism, historical institutionalism and neoliberal institutionalism. Premises of respective theories, which offer contrasting perspectives on the functioning of international organizations, will help to formulate corresponding independent variables. The dependant variable being the changing design of institutions, the detailed cross-case analysis spanning a period of one decade uncovers causal relations between independent dependent variables. Thus, by means of time series data collection, patterns revealing which of independent variables can be designed as responsible for observed changes becomes visible. In this way, the study is able to answer to what extent assumptions of given theories can serve to accurately explain the influence of IOs on the policy making in the area of human trafficking. Consequently, the contribution of this study should lead to an improved understanding of the relative importance that specific factors have on IO's designation of policies.

Keywords

Comparative Case Study, Council of Europe, Historical Institutionalism, Human trafficking, International organized crime, International organizations, Neoliberal Institutionalism, OSCE, Realism