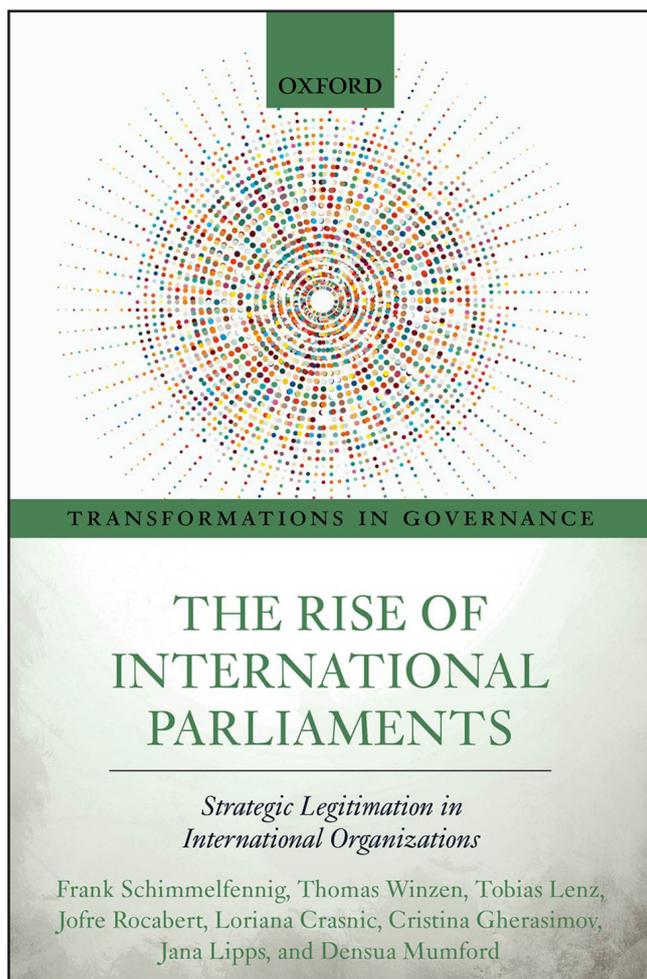


THE RISE OF INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

Strategic Legitimation in International Organizations

Frank Schimmelfennig, Thomas Winzen, Tobias Lenz, Jofre Rocabert, Loriana Crasnic, Cristina Gherasimov, Jana Lipps, Densua Mumford



International parliaments are on the rise. An increasing number of international organizations establishes ‘international parliamentary institutions’ or IPIs, which bring together members of national parliaments or - in rare cases - elected representatives of member state citizens. Yet, IPIs have generally remained powerless institutions with at best a consultative role in the decision-making process of international organizations. Why do the member states of international organizations create IPIs but do not vest them with relevant institutional powers? This study argues that neither the functional benefits of delegation nor the internalization of democratic norms answer this question convincingly. Rather, IPIs are best understood as an instrument of strategic legitimation. By establishing institutions that mimic national parliaments, governments seek to ensure that audiences at home and in the wider international environment recognize their international organizations as democratically legitimate.

FEATURES

- The first systematic descriptive and explanatory analysis of the establishment of international parliamentary institutions
- Based on a novel dataset of international parliamentary institutions and a diverse set of case studies in all regions of the world
- A theory-guided analysis demonstrating why and how international parliamentary institutions serve the strategic legitimation of global governance

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