



Call for Papers

CRISIS AS OPPORTUNITY

A conference of the International Political Science Association -

Research Committee: Structure & Organization of Government

Berlin, November 5-6, 2010

The aftermath of the financial crisis has triggered a debate on the future of governance and the relation between states, markets and civil societies, both across major OECD countries and beyond. While the state is called back in forcefully, its capacity to act as a regulator of globalised markets and as a provider of public services is questioned in the light of financial austerity following industry bail-outs, demographic 'time-bombs' and environmental vulnerability. This is therefore the ideal time to re-consider the 'state of the state' – both in terms of its internal architecture as well as its relationship to and division of labor with the rest of society.

Papers are invited on the following topics related to governance in post-crisis times:

- *The state as regulator, manager and mediator*
While the financial crisis – and other incidents of 'regulatory failure' – has challenged a 'light-touch' approach to the regulation, the return to public ownership in some cases does not solve the problem of the right balance between the state as a regulator or a manager (or even provider) of a range of services. The financial crisis, and the resultant age of budget austerity has encouraged a rethinking of dominant state strategies, whether these relate to a strengthening of regulatory instruments, the return and advancement of 'managerialist' tendencies in which the state has returned to the commanding heights of the economy, or an age in which the role of the state has turned towards one of mediation and negotiation between different social actors. How do such competing roles impact on our understanding of "Public Sector Bargains," and the shared expectations and obligations regarding reward and competency of civil servants in particular? Have new innovative designs of cooperation between state, private sector and civil society appeared to address these new challenges?
- *New type of public service organization: co-operatives, markets, and bureaucracy*
For many, ideas related to New Public Management as applied to public service delivery have run their course. But less agreement exists regarding the type of service delivery organizations that have replaced the age of 'privatization'. Some view a renewed emphasis on private sector solutions such as social investments to public problems as essential to overcome financial constraints; others emphasize the importance of 'bureaucracy'. However, a third view increasingly emphasizes solutions that are based on

'localism' as well as hybrid organizations, for example mixed and 'co-operative' ownership patterns.

- *Multi-level governance, forms of governing and civil society*

The financial crisis has even further increased the interest in 'global', 'transnational' and 'multi-level' governance and regulation. Among the key questions in this context are if civil society actors and movements are able to match the transnationalization of governing institutions and private business. At the same time, the effect and understanding of multi-level governance arrangements may differ across different actors: therefore for some globalization offers one way to mobilize new social movements, whereas for others it is seen as an essentially technocratic benchmarking process. In other words, if we are living in an age of 'global regulation', 'global governance' and 'global public policy', we need to reconsider the underlying assumptions of these processes in the light of the experiences of the financial crisis. What is more, serious questions are being asked about the governance, transparency and accountability of civil society itself, and the extent to which current regulatory regimes are adequate.

- *Monitoring transnational governance and building accountability*

The crisis exposed the black holes of authority and jurisdiction which followed the unprecedented advance of globalization. Meeting in June before the 2009 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, the G7 Finance Ministers acknowledged that the 'violation' of basic principles of propriety, integrity and transparency "contributed to undermine international economic and financial stability," noting that existing instruments "suffer from insufficient country participation and/or commitment." What can be done to strengthen the standards of integrity, propriety and transparency for economic activities?

Better international monitoring and good governance are undoubtedly called for to avoid similar events in the future. Can the experience of creating an international regime of governance in the field of anticorruption serve as an inspiration? The time has come to assess the global effort of establishing rules and standards for domestic action and international cooperation, as contained in a number of multilateral anti-corruption conventions, culminating in the comprehensive United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Application Deadline: Applications for the 2010 conference must be sent electronically by June 30, 2010. Due to limited panels, application received after this date will not be considered. Acceptance of papers will be notified by August 1st. Please write to Professor Alina Mungiu-Pippidi at pippidi@hertie-school.org with 'SOG conference' as subject.

Time & Venue: The conference will be held November 5-7 at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany. Organizers will cover all local expenses. Participants are responsible of their own flights.