

Projektgruppe Modes of Economic Governance

Dieter Plehwe/Matthias Schlögl. Research Group "Modes of Economic Governance"

OSI funded WZB Workshop Preliminary Program

Changing European modes of economic governance: How do European political foundations and think tank networks wield influence?

Until 14.30 Arrival at WZB, registration, coffee available

Wednesday: 15-18 pm: European think tank network research: the wider context

Dieter Plehwe, WZB: Welcome, Introduction

**Christine Quittkat, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research/Mannheim University:
Europe's new "participatory modes of governance"**

**Dimitris Christopoulos, Modul University in Vienna:
Social network analysis and European public policy**

**David Miller, Bath University:
European lobby research: old and new modes, techniques, tactics**

7.30 pm Dinner Lindenbräu (Potsdamer Platz): 'The history of the think tank network research initiative'

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Thursday: 9-12: Studying the New Direction Foundation Network

9-10.30 Matthias Schlögl /Dieter Plehwe, WZB: The NDF Network

Key characteristics of the NDF Network: Who is this new European policy related actor, what at the themes covered, who are the people active in the network? And what kinds of activities are undertaken? (organizations, people, subjects, output/activities)

- How interpreting / theorizing the new kid on the European block? What can be said about the relationship between think tanks and academic research, business, NGOs, politics and the media?

10.30-11 Coffee break

11-12.30 General Discussion: Towards a larger comparative European think tank network research project (covering all the party foundations? And / or other think tank networks? Other formats?

- How studying / understanding the influence of think tanks and think tank networks? What kind of (European policy studies etc.) questions can be addressed under reliance on such data? How do we examine and to what extent can we measure influence / impact? Do think tank networks matter with regard to European policy making? How do they influence and what do they influence?
- (Research opportunities such as looking at a) think tank output as input of policy process/media, b) case study: policy analysis of specific subject matters to better understand if when and why think tanks matter in European policy making: **specific example: NDF think tanks and tax policy** (input from the national research contributors)
c) thematic / activity patterns, overlap with lobby groups and / or expert groups: network analysis of affiliated personnel, d) complementary analysis of longer term quantitative developments / shifts in election results and network scope etc.)
- Specific relationship of think tank network studies to more established European party / election / policy / interest groups / institution studies

12.30-14 Lunch

14-15.30 Matthias Schlögl and country contributors: Does the NDF template work? What can be / should be done differently?

Web presentation of think tank network research data: Problems and issues of data research, classification, representation

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16-17.00 wrapping up session: Overall Assessment of methods and research technologies used: Are they adequate to the task, and is the overall approach viable for a large scale project design?

7.30 pm Dinner at Ta Panta Ri, Düsseldorfstr.: “Towards a comprehensive European think tank research project”