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Call for Papers

The Evolution of Institutional Complexes: A Biological Turn in the Study of International Institutions?

September 31st - October 1st, 2016
Québec City, Canada

ANALYTICAL THEME

This workshop seeks to break new ground in research on international institutions by borrowing concepts from evolutionary ecology to study institutional complexes. Applying ecological metaphors such as “complex systems”, “ecological niches”, “fractal patterns”, “punctuated equilibrium”, and “resilience,” we highlight the systemic and multifaceted feedback effects among populations of institutions and the ways in which these shape their evolution and adaptation. By drawing parallels between evolutionary ecology and regime complexes, the workshop will provide a rare opportunity to discuss the benefits and limits of biological metaphors for international studies.

We welcome proposals inspired by evolutionary ecology and looking at the structural and systemic characteristics of institutional complexes and their evolution. Contributions should be original, offer a clear theoretical argument, and provide empirical support.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

As for previous WIRE editions (www.wire-series.org), the number of participants will be limited to twenty, full papers will be distributed long before the event, and authors will only speak at the closure of the one-hour group discussion of their paper. This format offers an opportunity for in-depth discussions, provides authors with detailed feedback, and allows participants to get acquainted in an informal setting.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

To submit a proposal, send a one-page summary, a biographical note, and full contact information by email to institutional.complexes@gmail.com by January 11th, 2016. Authors will be informed by the selection committee of its decision by January 15th. Selected candidates are expected to send a complete version of their papers (between 7.000 and 10.000 words) by September 1st, 2016. Due to the format of the workshop, authors who fail to send their paper on time will have to be removed from the program.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Meals and accommodation will be covered for all participants. Upon request, we will also provide a financial contribution for travel costs. When submitting your proposal, please indicate whether you want to apply for such funding and indicate your city of departure. There is no registration fee.

PUBLICATION

The organizers intend to publish a selection of papers as a special issue in a leading peer-review journal. Previous WIRE editions have led to special issues in *Global Governance, Cooperation and Conflict*, the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, and *International Studies Review*.

ORGANIZERS

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