

CONCEPTS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Research Agenda

The focus on concepts of global governance aimed to help develop a mutually comprehensible discourse on the basic questions of world order and global governance by bringing in top experts from Asia, Europe, and North America to address the meaning of sovereignty in the era of globalisation and the potential for inter-state cooperation and other modes of global governance to address global challenges. Under the auspices of the project, these experts have met in a variety of forums and have published a number of papers, including papers in the CAG Working Paper series, as well as informing the work of the issue-focused Study Groups. Their work has examined the relative roles of state and non-state actors and competing paradigms of international order as an inter-state system or an international society of states and non-state actors. It has also explored the efficacy and legitimacy of a vast array of intermediate and long-term approaches to global governance: inter-state treaties, inter-governmental organisations, networks, the G-8 and other G-groups, global administrative law, public-private partnerships, transnational civil society networks, corporate social responsibility, and information disclosure as an approach to governance.

Workshops convened

- *The inaugural workshop on Concepts of Global Governance*
3-4 December 2008, Singapore

The main objective of this workshop was to provide intellectual framework to the official launch conference of the Project that took place on 4-5 December 2008.

The workshop was convened to debate the changing nature of sovereignty and world order, share competing perspectives on global governance, and examine the effectiveness and legitimacy of the multitude of actors and mechanisms involved in managing the world's most pressing global issues. Its participants acknowledged that the current global order is based on a western, US-led liberal international order. Yet with the economic rise of Asia, a shift of power relations within that order may be occurring. And given the daunting agenda of global-scale threats to human well-being and even survival – climate change, energy and other resource constraints and shortages, probable global pandemics – many argued that more sweeping and systemic governance change is needed to provide the tools necessary to address these global-scale perils.

- *The Roundtable on Global Governance at the International Studies Association (ISA) Convention*

15-18 February 2009, New York, US

In February 2009, the S.T. Lee Project convened a Roundtable on Global Governance at the International Studies Association (ISA) Convention in New York to introduce the work of the S.T. Lee Project and also to gather contributions from the delegates at the Convention. Several participants in the Concepts workshop joined other leading scholars in the roundtable: Ann Florini (National University of Singapore/Brookings Institution), Jan Aart Scholte (University of Warwick), Robert Keohane (Princeton University), Qin Yaqing (China Foreign Affairs University) and Steve Stedman (Stanford University).

- *The 2nd Workshop on Concepts of Global Governance
30 November 2009, Singapore*

Attended by participants in previous Concepts Group sessions as well as co-chairs of both the energy and health study groups, the main objectives of the second workshop were: (1) to update the members on developments in the Project, in particular the work of the Global Energy and Health study groups; (2) to provide intellectual framework to a major conference that was jointly sponsored by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the World Economic Forum on global governance on 1-2 December 2009 in Singapore.

- *World Economic Forum Singapore Hearing
“Asia’s Contribution to the Redesign of Global Governance”
1-2 December, 2009, Singapore*

The LKY School hosted a Country Hearing entitled *Asia’s Contribution to the Redesign of Global Governance*, on 1-2 December 2009 at the School, which was part of the World Economic Forum’s Global Redesign Initiative, an unprecedented multi-stakeholder dialogue aiming to develop recommendations for adapting the structures and systems of international cooperation to the global challenges of the 21st century. The S.T. Lee Project provided the intellectual framework to the design of the meeting agenda and used the opportunity to profile the Project’s work of the Concepts group, specifically examining the concepts of sovereignty, multilateral organizations and the institutional diversity in global governance, with a particular focus on Asian roles. The Hearing led to the publication of a report jointly authored by Kishore Mahbubani and Simon Chesterman that featured in the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Davos.

- *The Roundtable on Global Governance at the International Studies Association (ISA) Convention*

17-20 February 2010, New Orleans, US

Following the successful Roundtable in the ISA 2009, the S.T. Lee Project convened two Roundtables on Global Governance at the 2010 International Studies Association (ISA) Convention in New Orleans. The first Roundtable focused on the changing nature of sovereignty, and the second Roundtable focused on global governance and great powers.

- *S.T. Lee Project on Global Governance Workshop*
“Global Governance: Asia and the New World Order”
12-13 December, 2010, Beijing

Held in partnership with the Tsinghua School of Public Policy and Management and the Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy, the objective of this workshop was to expand the project’s outreach to a broader range of Asian scholars and students, and to build on the first phase of the Project’s work on global energy and health governance. The co-chairs of both study groups presented initial findings to a selected group of global governance scholars and practitioners from China.

Publications

As part of the work in the Concepts group, the Project commissioned several prominent international relations scholars from Asia, Europe and North America to produce papers on a range of critical issues on the concepts of global governance. Among the outputs, in addition to various articles in journals (such as Ann Florini’s recent piece in *International Studies Review*) were three CAG Working Papers:

- “Is a “One World” Order Possible? The Rise of China, the West, and the Future of Liberal Internationalism” by G. John Ikenberry, the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University in the Department of Politics and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.
- “Reinventing Global Democracy” by Jan Aart Scholte, Professor in PAIS and Professorial Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) at the University of Warwick.
- “Asian Approaches to International Order and Global Governance: Conflict and Convergence” by Amitav Acharya, the UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance and Chair of the ASEAN Studies Center, American University.