

# EMERGING TRENDS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Global Transformations and Governance Challenges Programme  
Leiden University, Campus The Hague, Netherlands  
Third International Conference, 5-7 June 2024  
Call for Papers/Prospectus

Global-scale problems demand global-scale policy responses. Today's key societal transformations (e.g., around culture, ecology, economics, geopolitics, health, inequality, migration, and technology) are substantially global in character, yet the availability and quality of global governance generally lags well behind the challenges. These circumstances urgently require innovative thinking and creative politics.

The interdisciplinary Global Transformations and Governance Challenges (GTGC) programme at Leiden University (Campus The Hague) therefore convenes its third international conference on the theme of 'Emerging Trends in Global Governance'. We welcome panel and paper proposals from a variety of disciplinary angles and methodological perspectives on the following subjects:

- multilateralism facing geopolitical shifts and the return of power politics;
- alternatives to intergovernmentalism in global governance;
- emergent thinking about global justice;
- citizen mobilisation around global governance.

As in its previous editions, the GTGC conference will blend academic panels and policy roundtables. The Hague is home to hundreds of embassies, government agencies, international organisations, NGOs, research institutes, and social movements, making it uniquely suited for interdisciplinary, multistakeholder dialogues about global governance. Conference receptions, lunches, and breaks offer further extensive networking opportunities.

**Please submit your panel and paper proposals (200-word abstract) to  
gtgc-conference@leidenuniv.nl by 15 February 2024.  
We look forward to welcoming you to The Hague!**

*Global Transformations and Governance Challenges is a so-called 'stimulation programme' of Leiden University to promote interdisciplinary and interfaculty research into today's complex societal challenges. GTGC seeks new insights and solutions for governing world-scale changes (in culture, ecology, economy, geopolitics, health, technology, etc.) in democratic, effective, fair, peaceful and sustainable ways.*

## Elaboration of Themes

### **Multilateralism Facing Geopolitical Shifts and the Return of Power Politics**

What are the consequences for global governance of changes in the global distribution of state power? How do multilateral institutions withstand the return of power politics? On the one hand, the emergent geopolitical situation is multipolar, with no single dominant state and more fluid alignments of major countries. Contemporary multipolarity moreover moves state power away from a Euro-American core toward increased influence for BRICS, MIKTA, and other constellations that bring the former periphery closer to the core. On the other hand, violations of international law and aggressive politics based on spheres of influence bring questions about the role of authoritarian states in international regimes and organisations. Papers are invited to explore the implications of these structural shifts for global governance (inter alia its institutions, discourses, capabilities, effectiveness, and legitimacy).

### **Alternatives to Intergovernmentalism in Global Governance**

While global challenges have mounted over recent decades, conventional intergovernmental approaches to global governance have generally stalled. Few new formal intergovernmental organisations have emerged, and preexisting institutions have generally plateaued, or even declined, in terms of their mandates, institutional arrangements, and material resources. Partly to circumvent these limitations, recent decades have witnessed the emergence of alternative global governance institutions, including informal transgovernmental networks, translocal constellations of cities, interregional collaborations, transnational private mechanisms, hybrid global public-private arrangements, and more. Papers are invited to assess how these alternatives to intergovernmental global governance have handled global transformations.

### **Emergent Thinking about Global Justice**

Global governance runs on motivating ideas as well as effective institutions. Traditional multilateralism has principally relied on a liberal-internationalist script that underscored human rights, multiparty democracy, national self-determination, market economy, rule of law, and peaceful settlement of disputes. Recent years have seen a resurgence of mercantilist-nationalist-populist-sovereigntist narratives, as well as alternative cosmopolitanisms around ideas of care, decoloniality, distributive justice, rights of nature, transcultural identity politics, postmodern democracy, and more. Papers are invited to enquire imaginatively into the normative underpinnings of emergent global governance.

## **Citizen Mobilisation around Global Governance**

When 'ordinary citizens' perceive that global governance affects their everyday lives and shapes their future destinies, they may also mobilise politically on the issue. Anti-globalisation movements have sought to dismantle global governance, while other citizen groups have rallied to support existing global institutions, and alter-globalisation movements have pursued visions of a transformed global order. Papers are invited to explore citizen engagement of global governance, and existing citizen initiatives are invited to join panels of critical reflection on their ideas and strategies.