

# **Linking International Organizations and Domestic Policymaking: The Role of Civil Society Participation**

Anthony Calacino  
PhD Candidate (University of Texas at Austin)

## Abstract:

The extent of influence of international organizations (IOs) in member state's policymaking is contested, as are the potential channels of influence. Focusing on the case of Brazil, I argue that IOs can influence domestic legislatures through domestic non-governmental organization (NGO) participation. Moreover, I identify shared norms between NGOs and IOs as motivating IO influence in policymaking. Domestic NGOs in particular are likely to introduce IOs and their norms in domestic legislatures, as doing so helps them gain legitimacy in the policymaking sphere and promote their shared interests. I find support for this argument by using a text-as-data approach on a novel dataset of over 1500 public hearing from Brazil's permanent Senate Commissions from 2013 to 2023. I find that the participation of NGOs in public hearings significantly increases mentions of and references to IOs. Specifically, at least one participant-speaker from an NGO in a public hearing increases the chance of an IO being mentioned by about 5%. This paper presents preliminary results and indicates pathways for future causal analysis.

Please find the latest copy of the paper: [latest draft](#)