

Propositions appended to the dissertation

**Common Standards via the Backdoor.
The Domestic Impact of Asylum Policy Coordination in the European Union**

by Claudia Engelmann

1. Safe country of origin policies have become a widely-accepted tool for governments in the European Union to deal with asylum seekers originating from countries where there presumably is no risk of persecution.
2. Policy convergence can partly be explained by a race to the bottom. Member states adopt certain policy measure because they fear being the weakest point of entry to the EU.
3. There is an integration paradox in EU asylum policy. On the one hand, there is no interest of governments in further transferring power to the supranational level. On the other hand, inter-state cooperation is crucial because of increasing interdependences. Policy coordination helps governments to overcome this integration paradox.
4. Policy decisions are not just taken at the political level but also at the administrative level, such as in country of origin information units. More research needs to focus on these actors.
5. Informal politics speed up processes. However they come at the expense of democracy.
6. Neither the logic of consequences nor the logic of appropriateness can claim to explain everything. Researchers need to think out of the box and try combining the two.
7. Getting access to interviewees is as much a matter of perseverance as it is of luck.
8. It is legitimate to make PhD candidates think about the societal relevance of their project. Such relevance, however, should not determine the significance of the research.
9. Teaching is a crucial part of academia. However, it is not sufficiently valued by the academic employment environment.
10. PhD candidates should be actively encouraged to cherish weekends, finish work at 6 and have children.

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