



International Norms, Normative Change, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will guide international development efforts over the next fifteen years. For this reason, developing a deeper understanding of the SDGs, the international norms that underpin them, and any normative change they represent is vital for students, scholars, and development practitioners and professionals.

This volume is designed to provide an account of some of the normative debates and normative change that the process of developing a set of SDGs has entailed. Its goal is to assess the origins, nature, extent, and implications of normative change in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. It also evaluates the extent to which the SDGs represent a significant change from established development norms and practices.

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Editorial Review

Review

This edited work is well interwoven with each contribution and theme speaking to an aspect of the debate within constructivism and norms.

The Editor of the volume, Noha Shawki, states: “The purpose of this volume is to assess the origins, nature, extent, and implications of normative change in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

I believe the innovation in this contribution will enrich and add sophistication to the debate on norm contestation after norms have been institutionalized. The argument that norms don’t remain stable after institutionalization is very well made and compelling. The comparison of Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) analyzed through normative theory is illuminating.

This volume is a cutting edge contribution that should be read by graduate students and faculty in International Relations, Global Environmental Politics, Development Economics and really everyone concerned with the welfare of the planet and transformative ideas. (Yohannes Woldemariam, Fort Lewis College and University of Colorado)

An excellent volume that manages to explain processes of norm change and contestation in specific forums of the Post-2015 Agenda. Students, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in the massive undertaking of formulating the SDGs and implications of the outcomes of that process will find it illuminating. Individual chapters in three key areas of environmental, social, and economic sustainability exemplify the application of a constructivist approach to better understand change in global governance. This volume is cautiously optimistic of the outcome of the new SDGs and their promise to radically advance international development policy, instead focusing primarily on the process of formulating the SDGs in the first place. (Tina M. Zappile, Stockton University)

The case studies contained in this volume provide useful histories of key Sustainable Development Goals, outlining the international debates that shaped them and the policy processes that determined their final form. (Christopher L. Pallas, Kennesaw State University)

Using insights from Constructivist theory, contributors analyze the emergence and diffusion of environmental, social, and economic sustainability norms. Reaching back beyond the MDGs to trace the initial articulation of these norms, this international group of scholars and practitioners record and assess the negotiation processes of the 17 SDGs or “global goals” in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Engaging and informative, this anthology documents the entrepreneurial role of ordinary citizens and civil society advocates in global diplomacy and is essential reading for students and scholars of global governance and international development at all levels. (Francine J. D’Amico, Syracuse University)

International Norms, Normative Change, and the Sustainable Development Goals provides an insightful look into how norms affected and were affected by negotiations towards a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for the post-2015 development agenda. This is valuable reading for anyone who wants to understand the development of the SDGs as well as the process through which norms both shape outcomes and evolve through negotiations for global policy cooperation. In keeping with the breadth of the SDGs

themselves, the book explores normative processes within a wide range of policy issues regarding environmental, social, and economic sustainability, presented by experts on topics ranging from protecting the oceans and seas to attaining gender equality to trade and development. This book will definitely have a place on my Model UN syllabus! (Stacy Taninchev, Gonzaga University)

About the Author

Noha Shawki is associate professor in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Davis:

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