



Ways of Seeing International Organisations

For decades, the field of scholarship that studies the law and practice of international organisations – also known as international institutional law – has been marked by an intellectual quietism. Most of the scholarship tends to focus narrowly on providing ‘legal’ answers to ‘legal’ questions. For that reason, perspectives rarely engage with the insights of critical traditions of legal thought (for instance, feminist, postcolonial, or political economy-oriented perspectives) or with interdisciplinary contributions produced outside the field. *Ways of Seeing International Organisations* challenges the narrow gaze of the field by bringing together authors across multiple disciplines to reflect on the need for ‘new’ perspectives in international institutional law. Highlighting the limits of mainstream approaches, the authors instead interrogate international organisations as pivots in processes of world-making. To achieve this, the volume is organised around four fundamental themes: expertise; structure; performance; and capital. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

NEGAR MANSOURI is a postdoctoral researcher at Copenhagen Business School. She holds a PhD (with the highest distinction) and an MA in international law from the Geneva Graduate Institute, an MA in public international law from Shahid Beheshti University (Tehran, Iran), and an LLB from Imam Khomeini International University (Qazvin, Iran).

DANIEL R. QUIROGA-VILLAMARÍN is currently an Ernst Mach Fellow at the University of Vienna (Austria). He holds a PhD in international law with a minor in international history and politics with the highest distinction from the Geneva Graduate Institute (Switzerland). He also holds a MA from the same institution and a BA in law from the University of the Andes (Bogotá, Colombia).

In drawing together diverse disciplinary perspectives and traditions of thought to pluralize and complicate ‘ways of seeing’ international organizations, this wonderfully rich volume advances both scholarship on international organizations themselves, and more wide-ranging inquiries about the connections between legal forms, institutional arrangements, and epistemology in international law.

Megan Donaldson Associate Professor of Public International Law,
University College London

Challenging the traditional lens of international institutional law, *Ways of Seeing International Organisations* brings fresh perspectives to the field. By interrogating expertise, structures, performance, and capital, this work transcends conventional boundaries, inspiring a critical, multidisciplinary understanding of international organisations’ socio-technical roles and world-ordering visions.

Sundhya Pahuja Melbourne Laureate Professor,
University of Melbourne

This volume brings together a remarkable set of critical voices, both established and emergent, from the field of international organization studies. The book not only documents the variety and richness of theoretical approaches available for the critical study of international institutions and law, it also provides readers with a wealth of empirical vignettes and case studies to underline their crucial contribution. A great achievement!

Jens Steffek Professor of Transnational Governance,
Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany

Engaging and provocative, this volume shows international organizations as sites of socio-technical struggle. Challenging the dominance of ‘problem-solving thinking’ in international institutional law, *Ways of Seeing International Organizations* draws from law, history, anthropology, and political science to provide a rich description of institutional practices and their distributive effects. A sophisticated, unconventional, and insightful take on the lives of international organizations.

René Urueña Professor of Law, University
of the Andes, Colombia

LSE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SERIES EDITORS

Stephen Humphreys (Lead Editor)

Department of Law, London School of Economics

Kirsten Ainley

Department of International Relations, Australian National University

Ayça Çubukçu

Department of Sociology, London School of Economics

George Lawson

Department of International Relations, Australian National University

Imaobong Umoren

Department of International History, London School of Economics

This series, published in association with the Centre for International Studies at the London School of Economics, is centred on three main themes. First, the series is oriented around work that is transdisciplinary, which challenges disciplinary conventions and develops arguments that cannot be grasped within existing disciplines. It will include work combining a wide range of fields, including international relations, international law, political theory, history, sociology and ethics. Second, it comprises books that contain an overtly international or transnational dimension, but not necessarily focused simply within the discipline of International Relations. Finally, the series will publish books that use scholarly inquiry as a means of addressing pressing political concerns. Books in the series may be predominantly theoretical, or predominantly empirical, but all will say something of significance about political issues that exceed national boundaries.

Previous books in the series:

Culture and Order in World Politics Andrew Phillips and Christian Reus-Smit (eds.)

On Cultural Diversity: International Theory in a World of Difference Christian Reus-Smit

Socioeconomic Justice: International Intervention and Transition in Post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina Daniela Lai

The World Imagined: Collective Beliefs and Political Order in the Sinocentric, Islamic and Southeast Asian International Societies Hendrik Spruyt

How the East Was Won: Barbarian Conquerors, Universal Conquest and the Making of Modern Asia Andrew Phillips

Before the West: The Rise and Fall of Eastern World Orders Ayşe Zarakol
Capitalism, Jacobinism and International Relations: Revisiting Turkish Modernity Eren Duzgun

The Counterinsurgent Imagination: A New Intellectual History Joseph MacKay

Dying Abroad: The Political Afterlives of Migration in Europe Osman Balkan

Resisting Racial Capitalism: An Antipolitical Theory of Refusal Ida Danewid
Regional Politics in Oceania: From Colonialism and Cold War to the Pacific Century Stephanie Lawson
Fueling Sovereignty Naosuke Mukoyama
Representants and International Orders: The Staging of Political Authority Alena Drieschova

Ways of Seeing International Organisations

New Perspectives for International
Institutional Law

Edited by

NEGAR MANSOURI

Copenhagen Business School

DANIEL R. QUIROGA-VILLAMARÍN

University of Vienna



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009552622

DOI: [10.1017/9781009552646](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009552646)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009552646 under a
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution
and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit
to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission.
To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009552646](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009552646)

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Mansouri, Negar, editor. | Quiroga-Villamarín, Daniel R., editor.

Title: Ways of seeing international organisations : new perspectives for international
institutional law / edited by Negar Mansouri, Copenhagen Business School;
Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín, University of Vienna.

Other titles: Ways of seeing international organizations

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press,
2025. | Series: LSE International Studies | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2024050628 | ISBN 9781009552622 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781009552615 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009552646 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: International agencies – Law and legislation. | International law.

Classification: LCC KZ4850 .W39 2025 | DDC 341.2–dc23/eng/20241026

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2024050628>

ISBN 978-1-009-55262-2 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-55261-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Published with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation.