

Information Sheet for Interviewees

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Project Title: Self-Legitimation by International Organizations

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Project Description

This project undertakes a comparative study of institutional self-legitimation by three international organizations (IOs)—the UN, the World Bank, and NATO. It will unpack the process of self-legitimation in order to understand how these IOs conceive of legitimacy and their organizational identities and to analyse their practices of self-legitimation in the context of conflicting normative and operational obligations and imperatives given to them by member states. This research is being designed and shared with practitioners from IOs in order to ensure its utility to them and to those who interact with them.

Interviews and Recruitment

I will conduct in-depth structured and semi-structured interviews with both junior and senior staff members within the IOs to understand a) how they perceive of their identities; b) what they consider their primary source(s) of institutional legitimacy; c) whether they view their role as entailing contradictions; and d) what practices of self-legitimation they engage in. You have been selected as a potential participant for your knowledge of the organization's mandate and operations in the section selected for study.

Publication Plans

This research will be published in peer-reviewed academic journals, policy briefs, and possibly a peer-reviewed academic book. Interviewees are asked to give permission for use of their comments in publications and are given a choice of how they wish to be cited (see below). Publication will have no impact upon confidentiality.

Interviewee Consent

All interviewees will be asked to sign a consent form (attached). The form states that participation is completely voluntary and interviewees have the right to withdraw at any time. The form also states that there is no payment in exchange for participation. In addition, interviewees will be asked to indicate on the form whether they consent to having the interview recorded or not. Finally, they will be asked to give permission for use of interview data in any subsequent publications and they will be given the choice of how they wish to be cited: anonymously, by organization, by organization and title, or by name. In the text of any publications based upon the research, I will keep data anonymized, and the use of names, if consent is given, would only be included in an appendix to any published research listing all interviewees.

Interview Recordings and Storage of Data

In order to ensure quality of data, I plan to record interviews. Audio material and transcriptions will be encrypted, and all identifying material will be removed. Audio and text files will only be matched in a secure document to which only I will have access. All recordings and interview notes will be encrypted and housed according to the University of Reading's and the UK Data Service's regulations and made available in accordance with University ethical guidelines.

Research Ethics

This application has been reviewed by the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct.