Eelke de Jong (Radboud University)

“Traits of National Culture: The European Central Bankers’ Views of the Euro Crisis”

Abstract
The European response to the Euro-crisis brought new relevance to the debate on socialization through international organizations (IOs). While previous studies differ in their support for socialization by EU institutions, many have argued that the Euro-crisis revealed a far-reaching convergence of views among Europe’s leaders and the European Central Bank (ECB) in particular may be seen to have great power to socialize its governors into a common worldview. The present paper questions this proposition. Using the technique of cognitive mapping to provide an in-depth analysis of crisis views of five members of the ECB governing Board, we find that even for ECB governors national culture generally trumps IO socialization. Only in the case of ECB President Trichet, significant evidence of ECB socialization is found. The study also points to several new scope-conditions for socialization that may further our understanding of how IOs can foster the sustainable socialization of views.