

INS RESEARCH SEMINAR**WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2026****X-BAR, 1:30 PM**

Informal Governance in World Politics

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, cooperation among nations was based on international regimes and formal intergovernmental organizations. However, since the 1990s, informal modes of global governance, such as informal intergovernmental organizations and transnational public-private governance initiatives, have proliferated. Even within formal intergovernmental organizations, informal means of influence and informal procedures affect outcomes whilst, around all these institutions, even more informal networks shape agendas. This volume introduces and analyzes these three types of informality in governance: informality of, within, and around institutions.



Speaker



Professor THOMAS J. BIERSTEKER is Gasteyer Professor Honoraire at the Geneva Graduate Institute and a Senior Fellow with the UN University's Centre for Policy Research in Geneva, Switzerland. He previously taught at Yale University, the University of Southern California, and Brown University. Author/editor of twelve books, including *Targeted Sanctions: The Impacts and Effectiveness of UN Action* (Cambridge 2016), *Informal Governance in World Politics* (Cambridge 2024), and *Global Perspectives on Sanctions: Norm Contestation and its Impact on International Politics* (Edinburgh forthcoming), his research focuses on international relations theory, multilateral governance, and international sanctions. He is the principal developer of UNSanctionsApp, an interactive tool for the design and analysis of UN sanctions. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his B.A. from the University of Chicago.