



Civil Society Regionalization in Southern Africa: The Cases of Trade and HIV/AIDS (The International Political Economy of New Regionalisms Series)

By *Andreas Godsäter*

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This book investigates civil society regionalization in Southern Africa. The point of departure is the study of 'new regionalism', which refers to the wave of regional integration globally since the 1980s. However, whilst the current regionalism studies undoubtedly contributes to a deeper understanding of regional processes, important gaps remain, in particular the relatively scant emphasis given to civil society. This particularly relates to regions in the global South, including Southern Africa. The overarching aim of this book is therefore to analyse the dynamics of civil society regionalization in Southern Africa, both empirically and from a theoretical perspective, through analysing the cases of trade and HIV/AIDS. The study finds that CSOs can be more active in regional governance than has previously been conceptualized and are also highly active in terms of constructing regionalization through framing issues and, to a less extent, making identities 'regional'. Furthermore, the book enhances knowledge of the heterogeneous nature of civil society regionalization. Lastly, it is demonstrated that 'going regional' is only partly an autonomous process and also has to be understood as under the influence of the deeper statist and capitalist social structures marking the regional order in Southern Africa.

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Editorial Review

Review

'This book is a much needed empirical account of how civil society contributes to shaping regional governance in Africa. New forms of regionalism and the involvement of non-state actors are critical to make regional governance work for the people, not only for states and markets. This book investigates a critical case and provides valuable information to all scholars and students interested in forms of regionalization from below.' Lorenzo Fioramonti, University of Pretoria, South Africa 'Regional dimensions of civil society engagement of contemporary governance are understudied. Andreas Godsater does a great service by providing a rare detailed analysis of both the potentials and the limitations of collective citizen action in regional spaces.' Jan Aart Scholte, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

About the Author

Andréas Godsäter is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Global Studies at University of Gothenburg, teaching International Relations. He is also an Associate Fellow at the Center for the Study of Governance Innovation, University of Pretoria. His main research interests are regionalism, governance, civil society, democracy, development co-operation, migration, and environmental issues with a special geographical focus on Africa.

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