



How to evaluate the impact of BRICS in the WTO?

A combination of qualitative analysis and quantitative methods to get the whole picture

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02.06.2015

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Research Context

Project: BRICS in the WTO: (Re-)Emerging Powers in Global Governance

Question: Do economic clusters explain the politics or behavior of the BRICS-states in the WTO/Doha Round, and is deviation from the clusters explained by inter-BRICS cooperation/coordination?

Hypothesis 1: BRICS-states share economic clusters (State-permeated market economies), but they have different trade clusters.

Hypothesis 2: If the BRICS form a political bloc, they have a need to cooperate and coordinate their performance in International Institutions.

Research Context

Dependent Variable: BRICS politics in the WTO/DOHA Round

Two explanations:

- 1) Economic or trade clusters
- 2) BRICS cooperation/coordination

Three aspects of the research question:

- a) Descriptive: How do economic and trade cluster of the BRICS look like?
- b) Evaluative : Do the clusters explain BRICS behavior in the WTO and is deviation explained by internal cooperation?
- c) Explanatory: Do BRICS cooperate in the WTO and act as a political unit?

The Gap in the Literature

3 debates on (re-)emerging powers in the WTO:

1. World order and GG: What is happening to Global Governance? Global vs. regional? The future of International Institutions?
2. BRICS: Who are the countries? How do they look like?
How do they act in Global Governance? What strategies?
3. BRICS in GG: a) How does the BRICS vision of a world order look like?
b) Do and if yes, how do BRICS cooperate in the WTO?

Qualitative and Quantitative

- Why the combination of two “schools”/”ways”
 - In order to improve the explanatory power
 - In order to combine 2 levels: national and global
 - In order to provide interdisciplinary research
- How to combine the methods
 - Reasoning from group data to single cases
 - Using the Data in cases where we have data for “effect of causes”
 - Using qualitative logic in cases where we cannot explain the events: “causes of effects”

Applied Methods

What are the economic and trade clusters of the BRICS? (context of action)

1) Cluster analysis and descriptive statistics

- Sample: WTO Member States (but also dependent on available data)
- Single County analysis, followed by comparison of the results

Case Study of recent WTO Negotiations (Doha Round/ Bali Package):

2. Case study on the performance of the BRICS to find out deviation from the clusters

How to explain Deviation?

3.1 Literature review

3.2 Document Analysis

3.3 Qualitative Expert Interview



Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

Literature

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