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Shaming the Truth: Naming and Shaming and Transitional Justice

Christopher F. Patane
University of Missouri, patanec@missouri.edu

Marc S. Polizzi
Murray State University, mpolizzi@murraystate.edu

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Research Panel: Dynamics of Transitional Justice and Advocacy

Presenters: Christopher F. Patane, University of Missouri; Marc S. Polizzi, Murray State University

Title: Shaming the Truth: Naming and Shaming and Transitional Justice

Abstract:

While it is generally recognized that “naming and shaming” carried out by transnational human rights actors can lead to an improvement in aggregate conditions, it is less clear whether this strategy influences more specific behavior. As more states are democratizing, the international community has stepped up efforts at transitional justice to promote accountability and reconciliation. What is unclear is whether this promotion has been positive or negative for the pursuit of transitional justice broadly or if the community prioritizes some mechanisms over others.

In this paper, we examine the role that human rights advocacy plays in the onset of transitional justice mechanisms. Using events data to disaggregate naming and shaming across state, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental actors, we test which kinds of activities have the greatest impact on the implementation of transitional justice in post-conflict settings.

About the presenters:

Christopher F. Patane is a postdoctoral fellow for the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri. His research interests broadly cover human rights and state repression, but he focuses primarily on the interaction between efforts to improve human rights and the ways repressive states adapt to such pressure.

Marc S. Polizzi is an assistant professor for the Department of Political Science and Sociology at Murray State University. His research interests primarily focus on human rights. Specifically, he examines the influences that lead to states pursuing transitional justice and the factors that lead to successful transitional justice mechanisms.