

# Mapping Agency

Comparing Regionalisms in Africa

Edited by Ulrike Lorenz-Carl  
and Martin Rempe

The International  
**Political Economy**  
of New Regionalisms Series

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*Edited by*

ULRIKE LORENZ-CARL  
*University of Potsdam, Germany*

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ASHGATE

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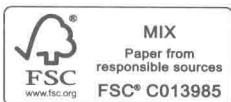
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## Foreword

This book is a most welcome and highly important contribution to an emerging research agenda that is becoming ever more lively and innovative, comparative regionalism. The concept of regionalism is as diverse as its object of study. There is no commonly accepted definition of what a region is. Most would agree that a region implies some geographical proximity and contiguity and mutual interdependence. Some would add a certain degree of cultural homogeneity, sense of community, or 'regioness'. Regionalism, then, refers to processes and structures of region-building in terms of closer economic, political, security and socio-cultural linkages between states and societies that geographically proximate.

For quite a long time, the study of regionalism suffered from two problems: Either it was largely Euro-centric insofar as the European model served as some sort of yardstick or 'gold standard' by which to measure regionalism in other parts of the world. Or it treated regions as 'containers' whose political, social, economic, and cultural particularities forbade any cross-regional comparisons.

This has changed dramatically, and this volume is a prime example of the 'comparative turn' in the study of regionalism. Comparative regionalism as an approach treats differences and similarities between regions as research questions rather than making them the starting assumption of a research agenda.

There are three main dimensions according to which we can compare regions: First, on the basis of *contesting models and alternative scripts*. What are the major policies and institutions of regional cooperation and integration in the transnational global arena? How and why do institutions and policies resonate with contesting scripts stemming from different institutional and cultural settings, and why are others rejected? Second, by means of *mechanisms*: What are the prevailing mechanisms of diffusion and transfer? Finally, third, on the basis of *outcomes*: What is the outcome of diffusion and transfer processes across regions with regard to formal institutions and policies, informal transnational meaning systems and collective identities, as well as behavioural practices? What explains the variation between these effects? Which are the varied patterns of convergence, enduring divergence, and resistance when models of cooperation and integration travel to other regions of the world? How are these concepts amalgamated with regional traditions, which conflicts emerge, and what is 'lost in translation'?

This volume adds an important fourth dimension to the comparative study of regions, *agency*: By focusing on African regionalism from various and empirically rich perspectives, the different contributions ask: Who are the agents of diffusion? Who are the 'cultural brokers' serving as agents of translation from one cultural context into another? What kind of transnational networks emerge in these

translation and transfer processes? The authors' approach is decidedly agency-centered by focusing on diffusion mechanism and on scope conditions. As a result, they observe a lot of variation in outcomes, both with regard to institutional change and to behavioural consequences. This allows for a more fine-tuned picture than in the diffusion approaches of conventional social sciences, which often focus on (convergence in) outcomes rather than processes.

The volume results from research undertaken in the framework of the Berlin-based Research College *Transformative Power of Europe?* which is being funded by the German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG). The Research College brings together researchers on European affairs in the Berlin-Brandenburg region and institutionalizes cooperation with other universities and research institutions in Germany, Europe, and around the world. This book with its focus on African regionalisms is part and parcel of its research agenda and a vital contribution to 'de-centering' Europe.

Tanja A. Börzel and Thomas Risse

Freie Universität Berlin, Research College *Transformative Power of Europe?*

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Ulrike Lorenz-Carl, Potsdam and Berlin, Germany  
Martin Rempe, Konstanz and Berlin, Germany

## List of Abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific countries
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
AMIS	AU Mission in the Sudan
AMISOM	African Union Mission for Somalia
AMV	African Mining Vision
ANSA	Coalition between South Africa, Namibia and Angola
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ASCCI	Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
AU	African Union
BCG	Boston Consulting Group
BLNS	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland
BLS+M	Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique
CBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
CBTA	Cross Border Traders Association
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CET	Common External Tariff
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning Mechanism
CFC	Ceasefire Commission
CM	Common Market
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of Parties
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
CSO	Civil society organization
CTT	Currency Transaction Tax
CU	Customs Union
CUTS	Consumer Unity & Trust Society
DDI	Diamond Development Initiative
DoP	Declaration of Principles
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSF	Digital Solidarity Fund
EAC	East African Community
EACo	Commission for East African Cooperation
EBA	Everything-But-Arms

EDF	European Development Fund
EIH	European Integration History
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EJN	Economic Justice Network
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPZ	Export-Processing Zone
ESA	Eastern and Southern Africa
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
EU	European Union
FATF	Financial Action Task Forces
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FCS	Forestry Certification Scheme
FDI	Foreign direct investment
FOCAC	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
FSC	Fisheries Stewardship Council
FTA	Free trade area
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GSF	Global Solidarity Fund
GWoT	Global War on Terrorism
IANSA	International Action Network on Small Arms
ICBT	Informal Cross-Border Trade
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICPAT	IGAD Capacity Building Program Against Terrorism
ICU	Islamic Courts Union
iEPA	Interim EPA
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
IGASOM	IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia
IPCC	UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
KP	Kimberley Process
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MAT	Mozambique, Angola and Tanzania
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoU-CoH	Memorandum of Understanding-Cessation of Hostilities
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NRA	New Regionalism Approach
NRC	Natural Resource Charter
NRM	National Resistance Movement
NTB	Non-tariff barrier

NTM	Non-tariff measures
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PK	Peace-keeping operation
PoA	UN Programmes of Action
RAS	Royal African Society
RATIN	Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network
REDD	UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
RIGO	Regional inter-governmental organization
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RoO	Rules of Origin
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC-CNGO	SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organizations
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAPSN	Southern African People's Solidarity Network
SASF	Southern African Social Forum
SATUCC	Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council
SEATINI	Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
SEG	SADC Employers Group
SPLM/A	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army
SRoO	Simplified Rules of Origin
SRRC	Somalia Reconciliation and Restoration Council
SSDF	South Sudan Defence Force
SWF	Sovereign Wealth Fund
TDCA	Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement
TFG	Transitional Federal Government
TIFI	SADC Directorate for Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment
TIFI	Directorate for Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment
TNG	Transitional National Government
UBoS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UN	United Nations
UNECA	UN Economic Commission for Africa
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USC	United Somali Congress
WTO	World Trade Organization

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