

Scale, Community and the Design of International Organisations

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Around four in five international organizations (IOs) have experienced change in their structure of authority—delegation, pooling, or both—between 1950 and 2010. What explains the stark differences in the extent to which IOs change over time? We theorize that an IO's authority is responsive to two distinct pressures: a functional pressure arising from change in an IO's policy portfolio, and a political pressure in which IO authority is swept up and contained in public debate. We test these, and alternative, arguments using original data on international authority in 76 international governmental organizations over the period 1950-2010.