

(Critical) Geopolitics, sustainability, and “global” spaces:

Bringing together concepts and insights from research on outer space, the polar regions and the “Global South”

Informal Expert Workshop
November 12, 2024, 10:00-13:30, at IDOS, Bonn

Rationale

The aim of this workshop is to explore ongoing geopoliticization as a (renewed) trend shaping global development across policy fields. The trend we call geopoliticization refers to the process by which considerations of space and the use of space are prioritised in policy-making in and across policy fields such as development cooperation and environmental policy. We observe an increasing dominance of geopolitical interests over global cooperation processes, where policy-making is dominated by geopolitical considerations, but where policy-making is also a tool for shaping geopolitical struggles. This workshop seeks to facilitate a frank and open exchange between researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds and expertise in research areas affected by geopoliticization.

Approach

To advance the peaceful and cooperative transnational use of spaces, we want to understand better how geopolitical considerations shape policy-making, institutional approaches and relationships among actors. By bringing together experts focusing on different regions, we seek to **compare** the effects of geopoliticization on policy-making and cooperation and to **understand** how related **dynamics** play out similarly or differently. The workshop focuses on two main questions: Why are established cooperation formats under pressure and to what extent are the causes framed in geopolitical terms? How are partnerships geopoliticized and to what extent have power relations changed? This explorative workshop is not oriented towards concrete outputs. By bringing together researchers from different fields, it shall inspire new research ideas and networking.

Programme

9:30-10:00	Arrival
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: Welcome & Tour de table
11:15-12:00	Session 2: Group meetings
12:00-12:15	Coffee break
12:15-13:15	Session 3: Reports and discussion
13:15-13:30	Wrap-up and closing words