

# The Unbundling of Sovereignty: Political Jurisdiction, Territorial Rights, and Resource Rights

Panel Chair:

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In international law and international relations, sovereign territoriality remains the dominant and mostly unchallenged principle delineating the sphere of political authority and rights of jurisdiction, territorial rights, and rights over natural resources. Along with other sovereign rights and immunities (non-intervention, international law making), they are allocated to collectives defined and demarcated by historically contingent principle of sovereign territoriality. Moreover, these rights come with an extensive bundle of powers, prerogatives, and immunities which exclude intra-state or beyond-state actors from making any claims to political autonomy, territorial control, and ownership of resources within the borders of existing sovereign territorial units.

Political theory and philosophy of global justice have both grown increasingly suspicious of the justifiability of this exclusive and monistic notion of territorial sovereignty, of its contingent and arbitrary boundaries, and its implying limitless rights to political jurisdiction, territorial rights, and ownership of natural resources. While they provided critiques of territorial sovereignty and outlined moral alternatives (theories and conceptions of the right to self-determination, territorial rights, rights to natural resources), only few of them have come up with ideas how to unbundle these rights territorially from one another and in terms of an extensive set of powers they confer on their holders (e.g. Moore 2015, Armstrong 2017). The existing debate in democratic theory about the makeup, boundaries, and about who, why and when should be included into the demos – and the refusal to take the pre-given *demos* of existing states for granted – has not been linked to these issues.

In light of pressing political and environmental problems (e.g. reclaiming sovereignty movements, claims for non-sovereign control over territory and resources by indigenous groups or the necessity to pool or share sovereignty over natural resources in regimes of international cooperation or protection), this panel aims to discuss the newest developments in the debate about “unbundling” of territorial sovereignty and about the scope, the content, and incidents of rights to political jurisdiction, territorial rights, and rights to natural resources.

Both normative conceptual and empirical approaches are welcome, addressing following and related topics:

- Critiques of existing bundles of sovereign territorial and resource rights from moral and empirical perspectives drawing on cases and acute justice or international cooperation issues
- Democratic critiques of sovereign territoriality and democratic rethinking of the boundary problem which discuss implications of their arguments for unbundling sovereign rights
- Proposals of concepts of non-exclusive and limited territorial rights and resource rights
- innovative conceptions of non-sovereign territoriality, partially overlapping jurisdictions, and pooled and partial rights over natural resources
- Empirical cases or practical examples of successful unbundling of sovereignty

The Panel is part of the Section **International Political Theory** and needs to be submitted by **February 15, 2018**. Paper proposals should include tentative title, name and institutional affiliation, and a short abstract (up to 150 words). Please send your paper proposal by **February 12** to:

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