

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BREMEN

"Transformations of the State" – Prolongation of the Bremen DFG Collaborative Research Center



On November 15, 2006, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) announced the continuation of funding for the Collaborative Research Center 597 "Transformations of the State" of IUB and the University of Bremen with about 6 million euros for the next four years. The DFG, the most important third-party funding institution in Germany, thus acknowledges the excellent scientific work of the Bremen social sciences.

[*Nov 15, 2006*] The positive decision of DFG is based on the evaluation of 12 independent scientists. They not only certified successful research in the first four-year phase but also accepted the prospected program for the next phase of the joint project.

The collaborative research center, which started in January 2003, was initially endowed with 7 million euros for the first phase. Designed for 12 years in total it comprises 13 subprojects at both universities, in which scientists from the fields of political sciences, law, sociology, and economics collaborate interdisciplinarily. IUB provides the co-speaker of the research center, Philipp Genschel, IUB Professor of Political Sciences, and coordinates two subprojects funded with about 700,000 euros in total for the coming research phase.

The common purpose of the research center is to determine whether, and to what extent the classical national state has changed over the last 30 years as an effect of globalization and liberalization. The research was able to detect various changes such as the Europeanization of financial policy, or the privatization of postal services and communication. However, the presumed decline of the state, or even the feared loss of its capacity to act as a political institution by loosing its power to multinational corporations could not be confirmed.

In the next four years, the research center will focus on the causes that have generated the observed changes in the role of the state. The IUB project D1, coordinated by Philipp Genschel will continue its research on international tax politics, while the project B3, coordinated by IUB expert on mass communication, IUB professor Hartmut Weßler, will focus on the transnationalization of the European public sphere.

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