

# Comparative Regional Institutions

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# Outline of the Lecture

- ▶ Readings materials
  - Summaries
  - Evaluation
- ▶ Analysing regional institutions
  - Research design
  - Regional institutional settings: reasons and impacts
- ▶ Discussion
  - ▶ Assessing the four propositions

# Reading Materials

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- *Crafting Cooperation: Regional International Institutions in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Acharya and Johnston (2007)
  - Summaries & Questions
  - Evaluation

# Research Design

- ▶ Clarifying your variables in the research project
  - ▶ Dependent variable
  - ▶ Independent (explanatory) variable(s)
  - ▶ Intervening variable(s)
- ▶ Endogeneity in social science research (p. 25)
  - ▶ The problem: mutual impacts of the dependent and independent variables
  - ▶ Possible solutions
    - ▶ Searching for instrumental variable(s) (IV)
    - ▶ Using IV to estimate the causal impact of endogenously correlated explanatory variable

# Regional institutional settings: reasons and impacts

- ▶ Regional institutions
  - ▶ Formal and informal rules and organizational features
- ▶ Factors influencing regional institutional settings
  - ▶ Cooperation problems
  - ▶ Number of actors
  - ▶ Ideology and identity
  - ▶ Power distribution
  - ▶ Domestic politics
  - ▶ Extra-regional institutions and non-state actors
  - ▶ History
- ▶ Impacts of regional institutions
  - ▶ Functional impacts – problem(s) solved?
  - ▶ Impacts on regional cooperation and integration

# Assessing the four propositions

- ▶ The more insecure the regimes (of regional states), the less intrusive are their regional institutions.
- ▶ The design of regional institutions in the developing world has been more consistently sovereignty-preserving than sovereign-eroding.
- ▶ Functional imperatives are less important than ideational and normative considerations in shaping the design of regional institutions in the developing world.
- ▶ The contrast between the design features of the EU and regional institutions in the developing world can be overstated in relation to the commitment to supranationalism and the development of a regional identity.