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## Unpacking interest groups: on the intermediary role of interest groups and its effects for their political relevance

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Embarking in a PhD journey entails certain (if not high) degrees of uncertainty and many doubts. However, after more than four years of intense work I can say that this has been a very positive and fruitful process in which I have had the chance to meet brilliant people and learn so many things that made me more aware of how little I still know. I have to say though that I started with an advantaged position, I already knew my promotor and had the feeling that she would be a nice colleague to work with. After four years of intense collaboration with Caelesta I can say that my expectations were if anything too low. It has been a privilege to work with such a brilliant, inspiring, open minded, and nice colleague. But this does not end here, having Bert as co-promotor makes this the best tandem one can think of while doing a PhD. Bert's interest for the internal life of interest groups combined with our also shared passion for football made him the perfect companion for this PhD project. If I decided to embark in a PhD project it was also because this was part of a larger project. This has given me the opportunity to meet two incredibly talented scholars: Moritz and Erin, thank you so much for your support and collegiality, and specially for being nice people with whom one can have regular conversations and, more importantly, a good laugh about any topic in life. In short, my first thanks go to the 2-Capture team, it has been an absolute pleasure to work with the four of you, and I look forward to our future collaborations.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adrià Albareda Sanz (Barcelona, 1985) has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Administration (Autonomous University of Barcelona), a Master degree in International Relations (Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, IBEI), and a two-year Research Master in Public Administration and Organizational Sciences offered by the universities of Utrecht, Rotterdam, Amsterdam (VU), Tilburg, Nijmegen and Twente, for which he graduated cum laude.

Between 2010 and 2016, Albareda worked as a researcher in public, private, and non-profit organizations such as the South Korean embassy in Spain and the think tank in international affairs CIDOB (Barcelona Center for International Affairs). Since 2012, Albareda has been involved in national and international research projects lead by the Center for Public Governance of ESADE Business School. Additionally, he has experience conducting applied research as a consultant. More specifically, he has participated in projects funded by the Catalan government and the city council of Barcelona.

In 2016, Albareda started as a PhD Candidate at the institute of Public Administration of Leiden University (Campus The Hague). His research project was embedded within a larger project led by prof. dr. Caelesta Braun aimed at exploring the driving forces of regulatory capture. The focus of the PhD was on the role of interest groups in democratic systems, the extent to which they function as intermediary organizations that connect members with policymaking process and the political consequences thereof. His research has been published in various international, peer-reviewed academic journals in the areas of political sciences and public administration.

Next to his PhD position, Albareda has organized workshops and seminars for both scholar and practitioners involved in the field of lobbying and interest groups. Albareda is actively engaged with the community of scholars in the low countries conducting research in the field of lobbying, interest groups, and civil society organizations. He has also participated as a guest in executive education programs for senior civil servants from Spain and Latin America. Moreover, he is still involved in several research projects conducted by the Center of Public Governance of ESADE Business School.

As of September 2020, Albareda works as assistant professor in public policy and politics at the Department of Public Administration and Sociology of Erasmus University Rotterdam.