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

Albareda Sanz, A.

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Propositions

Belonging to the doctoral dissertation

Unpacking Interest Groups

Adrià Albareda Sanz

1. Interest groups' organizational structure varies, and this variation affects their ability to function as transmission belts that connect their members with policymakers.
2. Only a minority of the groups mobilized at the EU level are organizationally prepared to function as transmission belts.
3. The extent to which interest groups' members are involved in the group is contingent on the resources of members and the nature of the policy issue under discussion.
4. Interest groups that invest in organizational capacities to efficiently generate and transfer policy information gain more access to EU policymakers than those that invest in organizational structure to involve their members.
5. Groups with analytical and political capacities are more able to become decisive for the final policy output of EU legislative processes.
6. Unpacking how interest groups are internally organized can provide us with new insights about the intermediary role of key political actors in democratic systems.
7. Whereas normatively valuable, the long-standing distinction between business and citizen groups cannot be linked to interest groups' ability to function as transmission belts.
8. When studying access and influence of groups, we need to go beyond rational explanations and account for behavioral factors that shape the relationship between interest groups and policymakers.
9. To improve the connection with the EU citizenship, Commission officials could be more attentive to whether interest groups are organizationally prepared to function as transmission belts.
10. It does not matter how much I study; I will always have less wisdom than my dearest grandma.
11. Doing a PhD is not necessarily a lonely journey, it can be an incredibly fruitful social experience specially if you are part of a brilliant and supportive team.