"Contrasting Power Sharing Institutions and Practices"

Moderator: A/P Sooyeon Kim  
Tuesday, 08th Jan 2019  
3.00pm to 4.30pm  
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ABSTRACT
Whether power-sharing institutions might help reducing the risk of violent conflict is hotly debated issue in the literature. We argue that in part this is due to the lack of conceptual clarity, also regarding the distinction between formal power-sharing institutions and power-sharing practices. Based on this we suggest that formal power-sharing institutions reduce the likelihood of conflict only through their effects on power-sharing practices, while the latter have some independent effects on conflict. We evaluate this argument with the help of a global dataset on formal power-sharing institutions and information on power-sharing practices. Our causal mediation analysis, both at the country-level and the level of ethnic groups, suggests that formal power-sharing institutions of the governmental and territorial type, if they do affect the likelihood of conflict, do so exclusively through their effects on practices. As we can show that the latter also have an independent effect, conflict researchers interested in power-sharing are well-adviced not to neglect the role of practices when assessing the sharing of power.

BIO
Professor Simon Hug obtained his PhD in political science from the University of Michigan (1994) after completing an undergraduate and Masters' degree at the University of Geneva (1987, resp 1989).
After postdoc positions at the University of Geneva, the European University Institute in Florence and at the University of California, San Diego (SNF Fellowship), he taught political science as assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin, and as full professor at the Universities of St. Gallen and Zurich.