



**THE IEL COLLECTIVE
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UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, COVENTRY, UK**

A TRAGEDY OF JURIDIFICATION IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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This paper criticises the growing importance of environmental and social (ES) policies by development finance institutions (DFIs), and the increasing use of corresponding accountability mechanisms in development projects. The concept of *internal juridification* explains this phenomenon and shows the crucial role of global civil society in perpetuating it. The key contextual element of juridification is the existence of a ‘marketplace’ of development finance. This marketplace is marked by a growing competition amongst the DFIs, and in turn which enables complex techniques of *legal avoidance* in this area of international cooperation. The paper shows that juridification in international development is ‘tragic’, because it marginalises the local groups that ES policies and accountability mechanisms are meant to empower and protect.

Keywords: accountability mechanisms, development finance, institutional competition, resistance, law and development, marketplace



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**LAW, GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT: CRITICAL AND HETERODOX
APPROACHES**

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This panel aims to gather a group of authors who submitted their papers to the special issue entitled 'Law, Governance and Development: Critical and Heterodox Approaches'. The special issue should be published by Canadian Journal of Development Studies (edited by Siobhan Airey and Mark Toufayan). The three papers that are proposed for this panel will be used as a starting point for the authors to engage with a general topic addressed by the special issue, notably the question of conducting research about law and governance of development (and also governance through development) from a heterodox perspective. The idea is to discuss the challenges but also promises of conceptual, empirical and critical approaches in law and development related research. The aim is to have an interactive discussion between the panellists, in order to exchange their experiences about doing critical and heterodox research in this area of international economic law. The conference on IEL Collective seems like a great platform to get these authors together, and to discuss their research but also methodology, in a way that interrogates the relationship between academic research, and pathways towards better governance of international development.