

“Integration through law”: how relevant is the European experience for IR?

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The European Union has often been pinpointed as an international regime in which legal rules play a major role, in comparison to other regional or international regimes. The aim of the present lecture is to identify these major features of “integration through law” and to reflect on whether this regional experience may hold lessons for the development of regime(s) in IR that might be strongly based on law.

The lecture will explore the issues of the scope, nature and structure of European law, in comparison with international law (comparison with federal legal systems will not be avoided either). It will focus on the production (or identification) of legal norms within the European legal system on the one side, and on the implementation mechanisms on the other. A special focus will be put on actors, tools and procedures ensuring a rather effective production and implementation of European law.