

International Civil Society 2000-2014: Patterns, Trends and Issues

Following a period of rapid growth in both scale and scope after the end of the Cold War, the past fifteen years confronted civil society with a more complex, diverse environment. On the one hand, in the wake of the 2008-9 global financial crisis and changing geopolitics, the rate at which international non-governmental organizations are created slowed down significantly, and more restrictions on their cross borders operations were put in place. On the other, changing conditions were accompanied by developments in information and communication technologies, which facilitated innovations such as cyber activism and new international social as well as political movements. Using a range of data, the presentation compares the scale and scope of international civil society in 2000 and 2014. In a second step, the presentation examines the relationship between international, global civil society and other forms of globalization. In conclusion, the presentation formulates five theses summarizing the core issues confronting civil society today.