

From Elites' Protection of Banking Interests to 'Capture at a Distance': A Historical Analysis of Banking Politics and Regulation in Switzerland, c.a. 1920-2008

Leon Wansleben

In this talk, Leon Wansleben will argue for a social space perspective on banking regulation, which promises to facilitate a more profound understanding of the structures and cultural norms governing actions and decision making within the semi-public spheres, where regulation is mainly conducted. This theoretical framework is then used for studying how the establishment and consolidation of a semi-public regulatory sphere in Switzerland created the social conditions, under which favourable rules for banks could be written, stabilised, and protected.

Leon Wansleben is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics. His research combines economic, political sociology and the sociology of knowledge. Leon's most recent work studies how central banking in Switzerland and the UK has transformed since the 1970s as a result of interrelated macro-developments (financialization, de-politicisation of economic policies) and organisational change in central banks.