Research project summary:
Domestic salience of compliance with International Organisations
Project managed by:
Dr Ulrich Sedelmeier
Project outline:
The project's broader research question is whether member states' compliance with the rules of an International Organisation has domestic salience. More specifically, it asks whether the national media reports on the state's compliance performance, and what determines possible cross-country variation in media attention. The main hypothesis tests whether in new member states, who underwent an extended period of pre-accession monitoring, the national media reports more on the country's compliance performance than in older member states. In the case of the European Union (EU), pre-accession monitoring was based on annual progress reports that assessed candidate states' ability to comply with EU law, and were used to judge their progress towards membership. As the question of when accession to the EU would be achieved was of high domestic salience in candidate countries, the publication of the progress reports attracted much media attention. It is then likely that even after a country has joined the EU, national media continue to take an interest in the publication of annual reports on member states' compliance, and reports on national infringement cases, such as a country's first referral to European Court of Justice for non-compliance. By contrast, in older member states, where compliance with EU law was never seen similarly linked to be deserving of EU membership, it could be expected that only rare, and politically highly sensitive cases of non-compliance would attract national media attention. The project will trace reporting in national newspapers on the publication of the EU's annual reports on compliance with EU law, and on individual infringement cases across a selection of old and new member states that vary in their a) compliance performance and b) Euroscepticism to control for other factors that might influence media salience.
What you will be expected to do:
The UGRA(s) will contribute both to preparatory work to setting up the appropriate parameters for the media search and then conduct the media search for specific countries (the exact choice countries will depend on the UGRA's language skills). The preparatory work includes, first identifying the relevant date ranges over the period 2005-2020 during which national media could report on a countries compliance performance. These include: the dates of the publication of the annual monitoring report, the publication of the Internal Market Scoreboard, the dates when the European Commission published infringement decisions involving a specific country, and specific cases in which a country's infringement case was referred to the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) as well as the even rarer cases in which the CJEU ruled against a country in an infringement cases. These various dates can be obtained through searches on the database of infringement cases on the European Commission's website (additional guidance will be provided by Dr Sedelmeier). A second preparatory step undertaken by the UGRA (in consultation with Dr Sedelmeier) is to identify appropriate keywords (in the relevant national language/s) for the media search (e.g. infringements, non-compliance, EU law, decision, European Commission). The third preparatory step is the identification of appropriate national media (newspapers), which should include a comparable number of similar types of newspapers across the countries concerned (1-2 high quality newspapers and, if possible, 1-2 popular newspapers), depending on their availability in relevant searchable databases for newspapers. The actual media search will involve the use of databases like Nexis UK (depending on the specific countries analysed). It will involve both a more general keyword search over the entire period (2005-2020), as well as more finely grained searches for relevant reports during specific periods (see above). Apart from providing annual counts and timelines of relevant reports in specific national

newspapers, the UGRA would also need to check the search results as to whether they indeed cover the topics searched for, and trace reporting on specific infringement cases.
Desirable technical skills (e.g. language/tech skills)
The main skills required are language skills: ideally, they would include 2 or more languages in the following groups, including at least one of group 3 or 4 (but interested students who can cover only one of the languages are still encouraged to apply as the project may employ more UGRAs covering only few/one language rather than a single UGRA covering many languages/countries):   Group 1 (Italian, Greek, Spanish, Portuguese, French),   Group 2 (Swedish, Danish, Finnish, Dutch),   Group 3 (Czech, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian),   Group 4 (Lithuanian, Estonian, Latvian, Hungarian, Slovenian).
How many hours you will work overall, and per week (subject to variation)
100 total, 10 per week (depending on the number of languages/countries covered by the UGRA; there is also some flexibility with regard to the weekly hours).
Can the project be undertaken remotely or do you have to be physically present at a specific location to carry out the work?
Remote working is possible, with regular meetings with Dr Sedelmeier (via Zoom).