

Rethinking Global Governance: Market Actors and Accountability

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***Abstract:** Although globalization is not an anonymous and irresistible force, nation states are said or perceived to lose parts of their autonomy to steer national (social) policies. Theoretically the loss of governance capabilities could be compensated through a system based on international or transnational actors. In this context, we are particularly interested in practices of accountability in the emerging transnational political sphere that reach beyond mechanisms of democratic accountability. While democratic accountability might be one possible mode of accountability, what are other potential modes of accountability and their sources as well as scope? These theoretical questions will be elaborated through an examination of social policy activities by TNCs. Thus, this paper aims at integrating two different academic debates relating on the one hand to the issue of global governance or the politics of the international system, anchored in international relations and, on the other hand, to transnational social policy embedded in social policy and management studies.*

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