The Review of International Organizations
Call for Papers

Dear Colleagues,

The *Review of International Organizations* will publish a special issue on "International Organizations and the Governance of New Technologies." We invite submissions for consideration to be included in this special issue.

International Organizations (IOs) play an increasingly pivotal role in shaping global regulatory and standard-setting landscapes, particularly as advances in emerging technologies continuously redefine the boundaries of governance. IOs not only develop technical and policy standards, but also monitor compliance, enforce rules, and facilitate the diffusion of norms. Their regulatory activities have gained new prominence amid fragmented national regimes and persistent governance gaps.

Today, the regulatory environment is being transformed by the rapid emergence and evolution of a wide array of new technologies and innovations—including but not limited to artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, blockchain, data analytics, and the governance of the digital commons, such as the internet and shared data infrastructures. These developments present IOs with both unique opportunities and complex challenges as they harness their regulatory and standard-setting capacity to address data governance, technological stewardship, and the establishment of global standards. Successfully navigating these dynamics requires IOs to engage with influential private actors, adapt to intensifying geopolitical competition, and respond to the retreat of traditional hegemonic leadership, while also ensuring that governance of the digital commons remains inclusive, legitimate, and effective.

This special issue seeks to advance our understanding of how IOs regulate and set standards across a broad spectrum of new technologies within a shifting global order. We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions that address, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- **Sources of regulatory and standard-setting power:** *Why and how do IOs acquire regulatory and standard-setting authority, especially in relation to new technological domains, such as AI, machine learning, digital platforms, blockchain-based systems, data analytics, and shared digital infrastructures? What is the reach and impact of this influence?*

- **Technology governance:** *How are IOs shaping global rules, standards, and norms for the development, dissemination, and oversight of new technologies? In what ways do IOs contribute to the regulation and standardization of digital public goods (e.g., the internet, open data initiatives, global digital standards, and shared data infrastructures), and what challenges do they encounter in promoting equitable access and stewardship? How do they balance fostering innovation with mitigating emerging risks?*

- **Adoption and diffusion of emerging technologies:** *How do IOs integrate technologies into their own regulatory practices? What roles do they play in facilitating or hindering the adoption and diffusion of these technologies by states and non-state actors?*

- **Collaboration and contestation:** *How do IOs interact with states, private actors (including major technology firms), and civil society groups in the regulation and standardization of emerging technologies and/or the governance of the digital commons?*

- **Regulatory power and geopolitics:** *How are IOs' regulatory and standard-setting practices evolving in response to technological disruption and shifting geopolitical dynamics? How do power asymmetries shape IOs' ability to regulate, and whose interests are embedded in these frameworks?*

We encourage both theoretical and empirical submissions from a broad range of disciplinary perspectives and methodological approaches. The deadline for submissions is **May 31, 2026**. Submissions should be made through Editorial Manager (http://www.editorialmanager.com/roio/), indicating that the submission is to the special issue ("SI: IOs and New Technologies").

We look forward to your contributions to this timely and important discussion.

Sincerely,

Zoe Ge, Nikitas Konstantinidis, Irene Menéndez González (IE University),
Guest Editors, *Review of International Organizations*.