

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-role-of-international-organizations-in-shaping-the-politics-of-noncompliance/>

This video outlines a research project focused on how governments respond to allegations of violating international law, specifically examining the rhetorical strategies they employ to shape perceptions of their actions. Over the past five years, the authors observed that governments, such as Russia during the Crimea invasion, effectively used communication tactics to influence public understanding and international discourse about their actions. They argue that these strategies target both domestic audiences and foreign elites to mitigate the consequences of legal violations.

The study builds on existing political science literature regarding the relationship between public opinion and foreign policy, the role of international law, and the contestation of legal norms. It includes survey experiments designed to analyze how messaging affects public attitudes towards perceived legal violations, employing different rhetorical strategies like denial, validity challenges, and applicability challenges.

Findings suggest that denial strategies are particularly effective in reducing public willingness to punish governments for violations. However, interventions from international organizations like the UN can counteract denial effects. The researchers note that context significantly influences public reactions, indicating that international organizations must enhance their public diplomacy efforts and credibility to effectively respond to misinformation and shape international perceptions of legal behavior.

Overall, the study emphasizes the need for governments and international organizations to engage strategically in public discourse surrounding international law to maintain legal accountability and shape perceptions in an increasingly ambiguous global context.