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The Empirical Turn in International Legal Scholarship

Gregory Shaffer and Tom Ginsburg

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This article presents and assesses a new wave of empirical research on international law. Recent scholarship has moved away from theoretical debates over whether international law "matters," and focuses instead on exploring the conditions under which international law is created and produces effects. As this empirical research program has matured, it has allowed for new, midlevel theorizing that we call "conditional international law theory."

Political Science Research on International Law: The State of the Field

Emilie M. Hafner-Burton, David G. Victor, and Yonatan Lupu

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Political scientists are actively engaged in research on many aspects of international law and organizations. This article reviews the key theories and empirical findings that have emerged over the last two decades of that research program. The aim, in addition to a comprehensive review and assessment, is to outline an agenda for collaboration between political scientists and international lawyers on topics that will advance the state of the art in both fields.

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