# Article information:

Full article: (Mis)constructing the Third World? Constructivist analysis of norm diffusion
[https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0143659042000191447?scroll=top=true=tab](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0143659042000191447?scroll=top&needAccess=true&role=tab)

# Article summary:

1. Constructivism is a recent approach to international relations that focuses on norms and ideas rather than material factors.

2. This review examines the mainstream constructivist approach to norm diffusion from the international level to national policy makers, arguing that its adaptation of liberal theory, censorship of material factors, elite focus and tendency to assume a unitary state all limit its accuracy.

3. Constructivists primarily focus on liberal norms such as human rights and women's suffrage, assuming that their diffusion represents positive progress at the international level.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

This article provides an analysis of mainstream constructivism as it relates to norm diffusion from the international level to national policy makers. The article argues that this approach has several limitations which limit its accuracy, including its adaptation of liberal theory, censorship of material factors, elite focus and tendency to assume a unitary state. While these points are valid criticisms of mainstream constructivism, the article does not provide any evidence or examples to support them. Additionally, the article does not explore any counterarguments or alternative perspectives on norm diffusion in the Third World context. Furthermore, while it acknowledges that constructivists primarily focus on liberal norms such as human rights and women's suffrage, it does not address any potential biases or implications associated with this focus. Finally, while the article does note some potential risks associated with constructivist approaches (such as implying that only Western norms are progressive), it does not provide any further discussion or exploration of these risks. In sum, while this article provides a valid critique of mainstream constructivism in relation to norm diffusion in the Third World context, it fails to provide sufficient evidence for its claims and lacks an exploration of alternative perspectives or potential risks associated with this approach.

# Topics for further research:

* Constructivism and Third World Norm Diffusion
* Constructivism and International Norms
* Constructivism and Liberal Theory
* Constructivism and Elite Focus
* Constructivism and Unitary State Assumptions
* Constructivism and Western Norms Bias

# Report location:

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