



## ***New Links across the Atlantic:***

### ***Exploring Africa's Interregional Relationships***

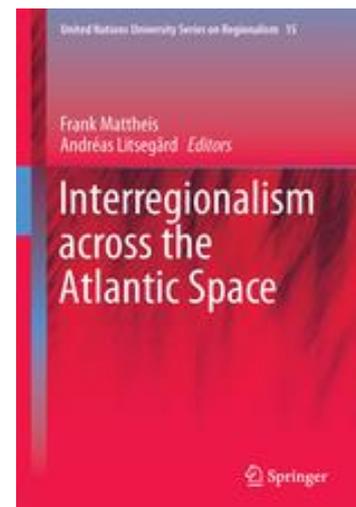
***A book discussion with Frank Mattheis and John Kotsopoulos***

***and discussants Philani Mthembu and Sithembile Mbete***

In the context of spectacular growth in Asia and a crisis of confidence in the West, the Atlantic space is experiencing a major reconfiguration. The North America–Europe link as the strongest and largest Atlantic relationship is under pressure both from within and by the rise of Africa, Latin America and a rapidly changing Arab region, all of which are increasing their interregional links and gaining weight in global affairs. But is a new pan-Atlantic system of relations really emerging? What is the nature of regional and interregional constellations that are developing and reshaping the Atlantic space?

The **Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn)** invites you to a book discussion with **John Kotsopoulos** and **Frank Mattheis**, who have tackled these questions in a recent publication. **Philani Mthembu** and **Sithembile Mbete** will discuss the book's contents.

The volume **Interregionalism across the Atlantic Space** (Springer, 2018), edited by Frank Mattheis and Andréas Lidsegård, brings together innovative contributions that focus on interregional relations across the Atlantic and the possible evolution of a new, distinctive Atlantic space for international relations. Additionally, it raises the question: Is interregionalism important because it brings about something new that really matters or is it simply a (perhaps unavoidable) by-product of regionalism? The book conducts an analysis of six interregional relations criss-crossing the Atlantic space, accounting for the multitude of interregional connections within a potential Atlantic macro region and analysing the differences, conflicts and convergences between regional organizations. It engages with the issue of agency in interregional relations, and argues that interregional processes and agendas are always driven and constructed by certain actors for certain purposes.



**Dr. Frank Mattheis** (editor and author) and **Dr. John Kotsopoulos** (author) are senior researchers at the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn), University of Pretoria. They were part of the EU-funded research programme “Atlantic Future”, of which this book is a result. **Dr Philani Mthembu** is the Executive Director at the Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD). **Ms Sithembile Mbete** is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria.

Date: Monday, 27 November 2017

Time: 14h00 – 16h00

Venue: GovInn Headquarters, Old College House, University of Pretoria Main Campus (Hatfield)

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/REliGz0GMJ03iusr1>

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For more information on the book, please consult the publisher's website:

<http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319629070>

For more information on Atlantic Future, please consult the research programme's website:

<http://www.atlanticfuture.eu/>