



## Yoram Haftel

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**Yoram Haftel**  
Mershon Center

"The Effect of Regional Institutionalization on Violent Conflict: A Shaky Kantian Leg?"

**Monday, March 1, 2004**  
**12:00 p.m. \***  
*Mershon Center*  
*Room 120*

*Are more institutionalized international organizations more effective in mitigating militarized interstate disputes? Realists expect no independent effect of international organizations on such disputes, regardless their level of institutionalization. Liberals, on the other hand, offer several mechanisms by international organizations may alleviate violent conflict. These mechanisms depend on the institutionalization of these organizations in important ways. I empirically evaluate the claims of these contending perspectives with respect to regional integration arrangements (RIAs). These organizations display a great deal of variation in their institutional design and the implementation thereof. Employing an event count model with a panel-data set up and controlling for several alternative explanations, the empirical analysis indicates that higher levels of regional institutionalization tend to reduce violent conflict at the regional level, but that this effect is rather weak.*

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Yoram Z. Haftel is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science and a Mershon Dissertation Fellow at Ohio State University. His research interests include international political economy, international security, and international organizations. In his dissertation, entitled "Political Conflict and Regional Institutionalization: A Virtuous Circle?," he examines the relationships between regional violent conflict and the institutionalization of regional integration arrangements. Mr. Haftel has a forthcoming article in *International Studies Quarterly*, entitled "From the Outside Looking in: The Effect of Trading Blocs on Trade Disputes in the GATT/WTO." He also has a forthcoming coauthored article in the *Journal of Peace Research*, entitled "Forecasting Israeli-Palestinian Relations." At Mershon, he continues to work on his dissertation and other ongoing projects.