

Law & Economics Center, George Mason University | Oslo, 20 June 2025
14th Transatlantic Law Forum: Experts, Democracy and the Law

Experts and Government

Stefan Kooths
Research Center Business Cycles and Growth



Size of government

$$\textit{experts} = f(\textit{interventionism})$$

Interventionism ...

... does not suffer from a lack of experts

... but from a lack of relevant knowledge

Lack of control

- Market participants
 - » Detailed decisions
 - ⇒ **Competition**
- Policy makers
 - » General rules
 - ⇒ **Democratic votes**
- Experts in governmental bureaucracies
 - » Detailed decisions
 - ⇒ **No competition, no democratic control**

Science: No substitute for policy making

Science: Instruments for single goals (positive)
Policy making: Balancing multiple goals (normative)

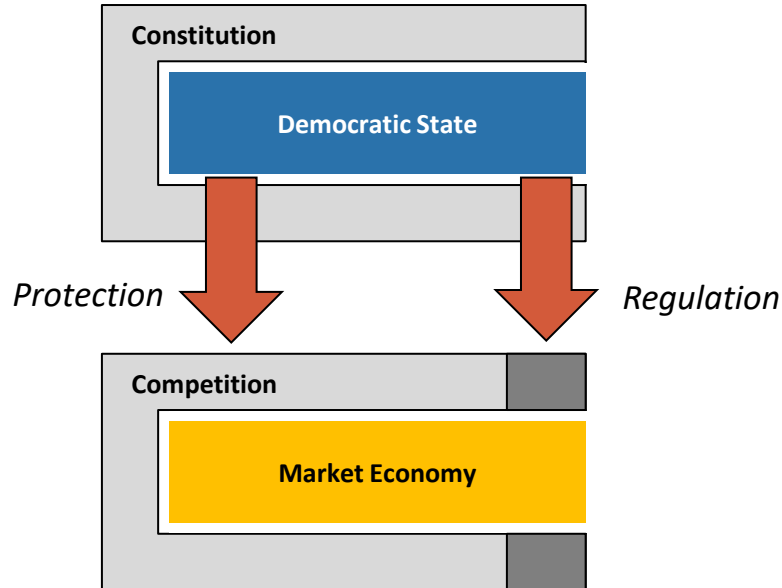
Outsourcing political decisions to experts
("Follow the science")



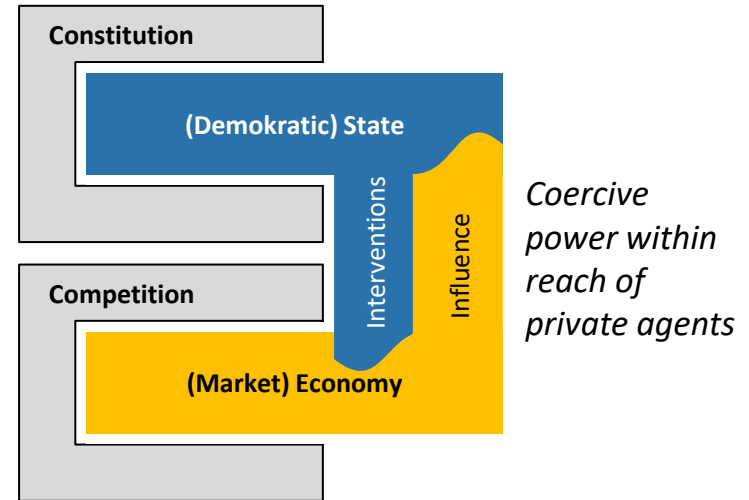
Incentives for policy-biased funding
(Impact-driven vs. insight-driven research)

Rules vs. discretion

Neoliberalism



Interventionism



Diskussion



Prof. Dr. Stefan Kooths

Research Director

Business Cycles and Growth

T +49 431 8814-579

M stefan.kooths@ifw-kiel.de



@StefanKooths



@kielinstitute

www.ifw-kiel.de

