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Propositions
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“Crises and Opportunities: Strengthened European Union Economic Governance after the 2008 Financial Crisis”
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1. The euro area crisis not only causes severe challenges for EMU and the EU, but it also constitutes an opportunity for EMU and the EU to reform, adapt and develop.
2. Addressing collective challenges from an encompassing, holistic perspective is a tendency of future EU economic governance, but to be successful, it requires effective communication, coordination and cooperation among various EU institutions and national agencies.
3. The EU’s ways to address the euro area sovereign debt crisis have perpetuated the uneven integration speed of the eurozone and non-eurozone countries.
4. A basic reason for the existence and continuous development of the European integration project is that it generates more than the sum of efforts by individual member states; accordingly, EU policies aim to utilize synergistic effects of various actors within the EU.
5. Apart from concluding EU Treaties and adopting policies via EU collective decision-making processes, EU member states can pursue their national interests by drawing up intergovernmental treaties that are only binding for some of them.
6. The main interests of non-governmental actors decide their positions towards the EU project as well as their patterns of alliance-building with the European Commission and/or the governments of EU member states.
7. EMU affairs tend to be dominated, and delimited, by Franco-German positions.
8. During crises, general support rates for the EU/EMU tend to decrease, and thus the gap between public and elite support for the EU/EMU project widens rather than narrows.
9. Debates sharpen one’s wits; presentations and discussions with other scholars help to clarify the logic of argument and improve the quality of research.
10. As the proverb goes, “Rome was not built in a day”; similarly, PhD research requires focused and persistent work for a comparatively long period of time, although not for quite as long as building a city.