Imagining Pathways for Global Cooperation

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This book examines the role of imagination in initiating, contesting, and changing the pathways of global cooperation. Building on carefully contextualized empirical cases from diverse policy fields, regions, and historical periods, it highlights the agency of a wide range of actors in reflecting on past and present experiences and imagining future ways of collective problem solving.

‘This excellent volume courageously recasts the study of global cooperation. Instead of looking to the past to make sense of where the world finds itself today, it boldly inquires how the future is imagined in the present. Instead of looking at the state of global cooperation through the lofty ideals of philosophers, it offers a rich perspective through the eyes of practitioners, academics, and activists. And instead of treading customary ground in international relations theory, it melds a rich interdisciplinary tableau to capture the practice, emotion, and aspirational elements that move global governance day-to-day. In short, this book richly rewards readers with new ways to imagine the future of global cooperation.’
– Orfeo Fioretos, Temple University, US

‘This exciting collection combines sharp theoretical analysis with a rich array of illuminating case studies to show the powerful role played by creative human imagination in shaping transformative processes of global cooperation. In departure from established understandings of global change as rigidly constrained by deterministic historical structures or rationalized institutional procedures, it makes a compelling case that processes of collective imagining – drawing together symbolic representations, emotions, and normative beliefs – can forge new cooperative pathways in confronting the challenges of twenty-first century world politics.’
– Terry Macdonald, University of Melbourne, Australia

‘This superb volume offers an innovative and inspired perspective on global cooperation that centres the work of the imagination as an essential driver of the processes through which unscripted cooperation pathways emerge and open up new trajectories of collective action. In doing so, it delineates a more hopeful vision for a future that is not determined by the patterns and outcomes of the past, but driven by the converging aspirations of those willing to invent it.’
– Inanna Hamati-Ataya, University of Cambridge, UK