

BRICS business firms and the United Nations human rights agenda: an analysis of the global political integration strategy by transnational companies of middle powers

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The research analyzes the meaning of the middle powers' transnational corporations' political performance in international forums and organizations, focusing particularly on the activities of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Usually, academic debates about the globalizing elites or the emerging transnational capitalist class center on the articulations and political power exerted by corporations on the transatlantic axis (i.e. United States and Europe). Therefore, the project aims to fill a gap in the studies of international relations about the BRICS' political strategy (whether jointly articulated or not) in international organizations. The research focuses, in particular, on the insertion of these companies in the United Nations (UN) corporate responsibility and human rights initiatives, highlighting the Global Compact and the Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights. The research hopes to attain the following scientific output: 1) mapping of the political performance of the middle powers' transnational corporations in the United Nations, in this case the BRICS countries; 2) elaboration of an analytical framework on the strategic profile of the political integration of BRICS companies in international organizations.