

## ABSTRACT

### **Innovation after the Revolution: Foreign Sovereign Bond Contracts since 2003**

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We examine the development of a set of clauses in sovereign bond contracts after a radical shift in contract boilerplate that took place in 2003. We find that once old boilerplate was dislodged, new boilerplate did not displace it across the sovereign debt market.

Instead, issuers and law firms appear to experiment with a wide range of formulations of the so-called "collective action clauses." The experimentation is especially evident in London, but also to a lesser extent in New York. This trajectory is contrary to expectations and at odds with recent literature on contract boilerplate. We interviewed lawyers and officials involved in recent transactions to explore the causes behind this trend.

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