



Workshop:

Putting young people at the center: How to build democratic citizenship in transitioning countries?

The legacy of authoritarian regimes on democratic citizenship

Time and Date: 10.00 -15.30, 11 May 2017

Venue: International IDEA, Strömsborg, Stockholm

Introduction

No citizens, no true democracy”¹ is a widely held view in academic research and in democracy building processes. But how do citizens become democratic to be this bedrock of democracies? Previous research from advanced democracies shows that democratic citizenship and political engagement develops early in life, during the so-called formative years, and then remain relatively unchanged. The question is then, how do we build democratic citizenship in transitioning countries and what role do young people have?

About the research

The new research project “The legacy of authoritarian regimes on democratic citizenship²”, led by Nottingham University, studies this and related questions and shows that citizens' formative experiences in non-democratic systems impact their political attitudes, values, and behavior even after the existence of these regimes. These legacy effects have important implications for the development of a democratic political culture in transitioning societies and implies that youth is a particular important group to include in democracy-building efforts.

Workshop objective

The objective of the workshop is to present the key findings from the research project and link these to the work of democracy practitioners. Representatives from three organisations, Democracy Reporting International -Myanmar, The Christian Democratic International Centre (KIC) and the Robert Schumann Institute (RSI) will share their experiences of working with youth, civic education and democracy support in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe focusing on the following countries: Myanmar, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Macedonia, Moldova and Ukraine. Their presentations will be supplemented by the researchers from Nottingham University and Essex University, UK, who will present country related data and findings. A discussion with presenters and participants on the legacy effect and practical implications that the research findings might have for actors working in transitional contexts will conclude the workshop.

¹ Moore, Barrington 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorships and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon, p. 23.

² “The legacy of authoritarian regimes on democratic citizenship” is a research project studying the long-term impact of autocratic regimes on civil society that could undermine democratisation processes. Using a statistical methodological approach, the study investigates the legacy of dictatorships from over 100 countries from around the globe covering the entire 20th century. For more information, visit:

<https://globalcitizenpolitics.net> . Contact Dr. Anja Neundorf, Associate Professor in Politics, Nottingham University

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/politics/people/anja.neundorf>.

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10.00-10.15	Opening of workshop Keboitse Machangana, Director of Global Programmes, International IDEA
10.15 – 12.00	Session 1: “Legacy of Authoritarian Regimes” Presentation: Anja Neundorf, Associate Professor, Nottingham University Natasha Ezrow, Senior Lecturer, Essex University <i>Question and Answers</i>
12.00- 12.45	LUNCH
12:45 -14.15	Session 2: Strengthening democracy in transitional contexts - perspectives from democracy practitioners Presentation and discussions: Annika Rigö, Christian Democratic International Centre (KIC –PYPA) – (Africa - Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda) Gabor Berczeli, Robert Schuman Institute(RSI) - Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Moldova, Macedonia) Marine Constant, Democracy Reporting International (DRI) – Asia - Myanmar With regional/country specific contributions from Anja Neundorf and Natasha Ezrow, Nottingham University / Essex University
14.15-14.30	Break
14.30 – 15.15	Session 3: Strengthening democracy in transitional contexts - from research to democracy building Full group discussion <i>Discussion questions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What are the practical implications of these research findings for democracy practitioners in transitional contexts?▪ How can academia and practitioners better collaborate to identify research areas and to facilitate the use of findings in project design?
15.15 -15.30	Concluding remarks Dr. Anja Neundorf, Associate Professor, Nottingham University Nathalie Ebead, Head of Democracy Assessments and Analysis, International IDEA