

The Indiana Democracy Consortium



**BOXING PANDORA: DEFINING  
FRONTIERS IN A  
DEMOCRATIZING WORLD**  
TIM WATERS-LAW SCHOOL  
THURSDAY OCT. 4 3-5PM  
LAW SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM

If democratization is to spread, it must do so within existing state borders, because theories of democracy usually take borders as given, or sees their fixity as a bulwark against illiberal nationalism. But what if borders *are* the problem? What if international frontiers distort democratic choices and raise the stakes in communal disputes? At the inaugural session of IDC's colloquium series, Prof. Timothy Waters introduces a critical discussion of one of the foundations of the postwar order – the assumption that territorial integrity increases stability, prevents violence, and promotes justice – and the surprising challenge democratization poses to that order. Employing a neo-Wilsonian approach to self-determination, Waters theorizes a right of secession premised on a radically self-identifying democratic communities negotiating claims to statehood in an internationally sanctioned process. He also considers how we could measure the effects of the new rule – or the current one. Illiberal chaos or emancipatory project? In an increasingly democratic world, how many states should there be – and who decides?