

## INDIANA DEMOCRACY CONSORTIUM

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*The IDC seeks to connect IU's many talented researchers and students working on questions of contemporary democratic change, and to foster new conversations and research projects linking academic scholarship and the broader world of practitioners and policy-makers. The IDC is focused on the basic preconditions of successful democratic transformation - from the enterprises of vibrant civil society networks, to the structure of formal electoral rules and constitutional design, and to the importance of professionalism in managing the affairs of the formal government and the transactions between governmental and non-governmental organizations. The fundamental question that defines the mission of the IDC is quite straightforward: why is it that some democracies succeed and others fail?*

### **Recent Events**

*Colloquia Series:* On December 6, Christy Ochoa presented her work on the Odious Debt doctrine. Through an examination of the many externalities that obtain when post-authoritarian states seek to have debts incurred under despotic rulers forgiven, she points out the deficiencies of current approaches. In her presentation, Christy advocates an Odious Finance doctrine that considers the many other ways that despotic regimes might finance non-socially beneficial activities.

*Metamorphosis of Suicide Terrorism: From Targeting Foreigners/Occupiers to Sectarian Violence:* On Wednesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> the Center for American and Global Security (CAGS) hosted Mia Bloom as she discussed her recent work on suicide terrorism. For more information on upcoming CAGS events contact CAGS at 856-7390 or at [cags@indiana.edu](mailto:cags@indiana.edu).

*Kosovo: Endgame or Crisis:* On Friday, Dec. 7, the IDC hosted a panel session examining the recent Kosovo elections and their impacts on issues related to democracy, identity and territorial sovereignty. Presenters included Professor Tim Waters of the Law School, Vinka Drezga of REEI, and Brian Shoup (from parts unknown).

*Inter-American Journal of Education for Democracy:* In concert with colleagues from different international institutions, Bradley Levinson announces the launching of the Inter-American Journal of Education for Democracy. The journal examines issues related to the intersection of democracy, civil society, and pedagogy in the Americas. The journal can be viewed at [www.ried-ijed.org](http://www.ried-ijed.org).

### **Upcoming Events**

*Colloquia:* With winter break approaching, the IDC will not host another colloquia series until February 7 when Archana Sridhar and Brian Shoup provide an overview of their collective research on current cross-disciplinary grant and funding opportunities for democracy studies. You have ideas, they have money.

If you would like to present your work as part of the IDC Colloquium series, please contact Brian Shoup ([bshoup@indiana.edu](mailto:bshoup@indiana.edu)).

*Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis:* “Political Opposition in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Development Working Group  
Thursday, December 13, 2007  
Place: Workshop Seminar Room  
513 North Park Avenue  
Time: 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Presented by Emil Uddhammar, Professor of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, Växjö University, Växjö, Sweden, and Affiliated Faculty, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, IUB

**Abstract:** A problem in many developing countries has been that core institutions built on principles of democracy and the rule of law - often expressly stated in written constitutions - have had difficulties taking root in political practice. However, local norms and customs are important for creating legitimate governance structures in all societies, so the issue will often be how to accommodate local institutions with those derived from liberal democratic norms.

This article aims to explain why political democracy works in some countries the Sub-Saharan region, and why not in others. As indicator of political democracy, I will use the key institution of peaceful political opposition. A number of explanations for the existence or absence of peaceful political opposition is discussed; among them the relative cost for the government to exert violence against the opposition, backward legitimacy (Lipset & Di Palma), institutional history and constitutional arrangements, the organizational basis for parties, major arenas available for the opposition and the degree of mutual recognition between government and opposition parties.

This article was originally written focusing on the three cases of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, but preliminary data will be presented for another five countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Gabon, Mali and Rwanda.

**BIO:** Emil Uddhammar received his PhD in Political Science from Uppsala University in 1993. Since 2006 he is Professor of Political Science, School of Social Science, Växjö University, 351 95 Sweden and an Affiliated Faculty Member of the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University.

Development sessions begin at 12 noon and adjourn promptly at 1:30 p.m. You are welcome to bring your lunch. Coffee is provided free of charge and soft drinks are available. We hope you will be able to join us!

### **Recent Publications and Professional Activity**

Sumit Ganguly (Political Science and India Studies Program) recently published “Emperor Musharraf’s New Clothes” in the Dec. 5 edition of *Foreign Affairs*.

Bradley Levinson (Education) received a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship to spend 10 months in Mexico conducting research on issues related to civic education and democracy. Bradley has also been wearing his practitioner hat while in Mexico, giving a number of lectures and presentations on issues related to the linkages between civil society and state. In recent colloquia, many of us have commented on the deficiencies of electorally driven transitions. Bradley’s work examines how secondary education systems are often called upon to pick up the slack in order to prepare citizens to engage each other through newly established democratic institutions. In addition, Bradley has recently edited two volumes; *Reimagining Civic Education: How Diverse Societies Form Democratic Citizens* and *Crusading for Democracy: Citizenship Education and Home and Abroad* (both with E. Doyle Setvick). So in case anyone was wondering why Bradley hasn’t been attending colloquia sessions, now you know!

John Lucaites (Communication and Culture) recently published *No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy* with Robert Hariman (University of Chicago Press). Please note that John’s blog affiliated with the book can be accessed at [nocaptionneeded.com](http://nocaptionneeded.com) and that there is a link to his site on the IDC website.

Brian Shoup (IDC) recently published *Conflict and Cooperation in Multiethnic States: Institutional Incentives, Myths and Counterbalancing* (Routledge Press).

Regina Smyth (Political Science) recently published *Candidate Strategies and Electoral Competition in the Russian Federation: Democracy Without Foundation* (Cambridge Press).