

## 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

*Lt. Col Doug Ollivant:* On Feb. 19 the IDC hosted Doug Ollivant for a series of discussions about democracy-building efforts in Iraq. During his visit, Doug met with IU graduate students and faculty to discuss the role of the US military in state and nation-building missions.

*Professor Grigore Pop-Eleches, Political Science, Princeton University* gave a formal talk on Monday, February 25.

Title: Transition Blues: Causes and Consequences of Post-Communist Political Alienation.

Abstract: This paper discusses the roots and implications of the remarkable post-communist deficit in political trust and satisfaction. The first part of the paper uses data from the World Values Survey to establish the existence and importance of this trust deficit, which seems to grow over time and cannot be explained away by objective performance indicators such as economic conditions, corruption ratings and development levels. Next, the paper explores some alternative explanations of post-communist political alienation, in particular the role of Western comparisons with respect of both consumption patterns and institutions. The gap between the expectations created by such Western comparisons and the economic and political reality of the post-communist transition is largely responsible for the widespread personal and political alienation expressed by East European citizens. The final part of the paper briefly discusses some of the potential implications of this trust deficit for politics in the region.

Bio: Grigore Pop-Eleches' main research interests lie at the intersection between political economy and comparative political behavior. He has worked on the politics of IMF programs in Eastern Europe and Latin America, the rise of anti-establishment parties in East Europe, and on the role of historical legacies in post-communist regime change. His first book, entitled "From Economic Crisis to Reform: IMF Programs in Latin America and Eastern Europe" is

forthcoming at Princeton University Press in the fall of 2008. His work has also appeared in a variety of academic journals, including *The Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, and *East European Politics and Society*. Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley (2003).

*The Spring 2008 Hyneman Lecture* took place on Friday, February 29th, 1:30pm in Woodburn Hall 009. Dianne Pinderhughes, distinguished scholar from Notre Dame and APSA President delivered her lecture, "And They Call It Intersectionality? Race and Gender in the 2008 Presidential Election Campaign."

*ArtsWeek Events: Thursday Feb. 28, 6:00pm*, IU Auditorium Foyer, In celebration of Evita and ArtsWeek, IU Auditorium hosted a panel discussion on the topic of Women in Politics. Panelists included: Dr. Jillian Kinzie, Associate Director, IU Center for Postsecondary Research, Chair of the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women; Susan Sandberg, Bloomington City Council President, Vice Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus; Charlotte Zietlow, Economic Development Coordinator, Middle Way House Inc.

*ArtsWeek Events: Friday Feb. 29, IU SOFA Gallery: Friday, February 29, 2008*, "Writing on the Wall – A Debate on Democracy, Civic Engagement, and the Arts." As part of ArtsWeek, IDC helped sponsor a discussion on visual arts and democratic citizenship.

#### Panelists:

Michelle Facos, IU Department of the History of Art  
Valerie Grim, IU Department of African American Studies  
Joe LaMantia, Art Educator, and Curator of "Writing on the Wall"  
Miah Michaelson, Assistant Economic Development Director for the Arts; Office of the Mayor, City of Bloomington  
Jon Simons, IU Department of Communication and Culture  
Beau Vallance, Department of Art Education

#### Upcoming Events

*Upcoming Lecture: "Russia After Putin,"* a panel discussion with Professor Elizabeth Wood (History-MIT); Professor Stephen Hanson (Political Science, University of Washington at Seattle), Ambassador Jim Collins, and Regina Smyth (Political Science, Indiana University). Friday, March 21, 12:00-2:00, State Room East, Indiana Memorial Union.

*Christopher Moore-Producer / Co-Director, "¿Puedo Hablar? May I Speak?" (Sol Productions in Venezuela, Inc.):* On March 19, the IDC will co-sponsor a film screening of Christopher Moore's "¿Puedo Hablar? May I Speak?" in Ballantine Hall 109 from 4 to 6:30. Mr. Moore will be kind enough to visit Bloomington to discuss his film and we hope to generate a lively discussion on current issues related to democracy and nationalism in Latin America. Below is a brief description of the film.

"¿Puedo Hablar? May I Speak?" is a new documentary film by Sol Productions which chronicles the 2006 presidential elections in Venezuela. Sol Productions spent nearly three months in Venezuela, filming interviews and events with people from across the political spectrum. The documentary offers its audience a portrait of a Venezuelan society at a crossroads; a re-elected President Chavez, challenged by a mounting opposition; a divided state, but one from which the Sol team manages to extract glimmers of hope for renewed dialogue and a bridging of the political gap. The team of four Americans traveled to six different regions of Venezuela, filming everywhere from the notorious barrios of Caracas to the oil-rich Lake Maracaibo, from a city of five million to an Amazonian pueblo of twenty-three, traveling in everything from Chavista motocicletas to dug-out canoes to a private jet. This documentary offers a snapshot of a society beginning its ninth year under Chavez; a valuable launching point from which its audience will more aptly understand the current state of Venezuela and its president, Hugo Chavez. A trailer for the film is available at [www.sol-productions.org](http://www.sol-productions.org)

"A compelling, 'must-see' documentary for everyone who wants to know what is happening in Venezuela right now."

Jose Torrealba, Director, Providence Latin American Film Festival

"¿Puedo Hablar? is by far the best film I have seen on the Chavez era in Venezuela... Far too often documentary filmmakers and the mainstream media portray the extremes in contemporary Venezuela and such work becomes slanted towards hard core Chavistas or hard core opposition. Moore's film demonstrates that Venezuelan reality is not so black and white, but much more complex... As far as I know, no other documentary film tackles these issues as well as Moore's film."

Kim Morse, Washburn University

"This movie will generate lively discussions in the classroom... It's a rare insight into Venezuela's political polarization."

Javier Corrales, Amherst College

"The film presented a very balanced account of what occurred during the electoral year of 2006... I would use it in one of my classes!"

Leonardo Vivas, Author, "Chavez: The Last Revolution of the 20th Century"

"What is missing in Venezuela is the open exchange of ideas and opinions and discussions of compromise. Your film is the first step towards that goal."

Jose, student, Harvard University

"Me gustó muchísimo ... Parece que Moore es el apellido preciso para los excelentes documentalistas políticos de EEUU."

Gioconda Espina, Profesora, Universidad Central de Venezuela

"The film gave an insight of Venezuela generally not available in the mainstream media"

Peter Barton, student, London School of Economics

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

Elinor Ostrom, "Collective Action and Local Development Processes," *Sociologica* (Italian Journal of Sociology) 3 92007: 1-32

Sumit Ganguly, "War, Nuclear Weapons, and Crisis Stability in South Asia," *Security Studies*, 17:1 (January-March 2008)

Sumit Ganguly, "Musharraf's End," February 20 *San Francisco Chronicle*

Sumit Ganguly, "Seize the Day," February 19 *Newsweek International*

Sumit Ganguly, "Leader Article: Stand And Deliver," February 19 *The Times of India*

Sumit Ganguly, "Seal the Deal," February 18 *Daily News and Analysis*