

*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?*

## **Announcements**

### **Democratization in Africa: Retrospective and Future Prospects**

Conference at the University of Leeds

4-5 December 2009

#### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Almost two decades have passed since the 'third wave' of democratization began to roll across Sub-Saharan Africa in the early 1990s, and while the holding of regular elections has become relatively well-established in many countries, perhaps most successfully in Ghana, electoral processes have also been deeply flawed in recent instances such as Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. It is also unclear how many African states are moving closer to 'democratic consolidation', or instead inhabit the 'grey zone' between democracy and autocracy as 'defective democracies' or 'electoral authoritarianism'. It is thus timely to reflect back on the relative successes and shortcomings experienced and to look forward to future prospects for democratization on the subcontinent.

How does multi-party politics actually work on the sub-continent and how democratic are African 'democracies'? Does a democratic façade merely conceal authoritarian leadership? Do results merely reflect an ethnic or religious census? Are 'winner-takes-all' elections and centralised governments the best frameworks for Africa, or do broad coalitions and/or federalism provide a better way forward? It is also appropriate to ask broader questions about the nature of democracy in Africa. Is democracy only seen in liberal and procedural terms and is this simply the 'democracy of alienation', as suggested by Claude Ake? Or are there prospects for more substantive forms of democracy that place participation and socio-economic inequalities at the centre of analysis? To what extent is democratic sovereignty a sham, with economic policy still dictated by international financial institutions and Western governments?

These questions will provide the basis of a two-day conference to be held at the University of Leeds in December 2009, organised by Dr Gabrielle Lynch and Prof Gordon Crawford of the School of Politics and International Studies and the Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS). Papers are invited that address any of the above questions, including country case-studies. Accepted papers will be organised into panels, with the following themes likely to be included:

- Voting, Parties and Identity: Africa's Curse?
- Multi-Party Elections and Violence: Solution or Cause?
- Decentralisation and Federalism: Effective or Failed Strategies?
- Democracy in Post-Conflict Societies: A Sensible Choice?
- Democracy & Traditional Authority: Compatible or Mutually Exclusive?
- External Agents: Facilitators or Obstructionists?
- Democracy as Second Liberation: Procedural or Substantive?

Abstracts (200-300 words) should be submitted to Dr Karen Cereso, LUCAS administrator, email: [African-Studies@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:African-Studies@leeds.ac.uk) Deadline for submission of abstracts: 18 May 2009. Information on the acceptance of paper proposals will be communicated by early June 2009. Submission of full papers (7000-9000 words) by 16 November 2009. The conference organisers, Prof. Gordon Crawford and Dr. Gabrielle Lynch, intend that selected papers will be published in a journal special issue on the topic of Democratization in Africa."

**Information on Fulbright's for your students: GAIN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH A FULBRIGHT GRANT!**

\* OVER 1500 GRANTS AVAILABLE

\* ANY DISCIPLINE

Learn more at a Fulbright Program information session this semester. Come for a full session including a Q&A, or stop by any time to pick up brochures and sign up to receive additional information by email. Information also available at the Career Fair (see below).

20 min. presentations will begin at 2pm and 3pm for each session followed by Q&A. Locations, dates and times:

BALLANTINE 005

Friday April 24, 2009, 2 - 4:30pm

BUSINESS 111

Friday April 3, 2009, 2-4:30

Friday April 17, 2009, 2-4:30

MEMORIAL UNION - ALUMNI HALL

Thursday April 9, 1-4pm - You can pick up information and ask questions about Fulbright Grants at the Career Fair.

Resources at IU for more information and help preparing your application:

1) Paul Fogleman, Fulbright Adviser, Office for International

Affairs

Tel. (812) 855-3948; Email: pfoglema@indiana.edu

AND

2) The Grad Grants Center in room E651 in the Wells Library

Tel. (812) 855-5281; Email: gradgrnt@indiana.edu; Website:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~gradgrnt/>

Resources on the web at: [www.us.fulbrightonline.org](http://www.us.fulbrightonline.org)

**India Studies Lecture:** 5:30pm, India Studies House, 825 East 8th Street - The Indian Growth Miracle: Can It Be Sustained? Presented by Arvind Panagariya, Jagdish N. Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. Sponsored by India Studies Program.

### **Interesting Articles and Links:**

1. As most of you know, both India and South Africa are holding elections. Here are some interesting articles on both elections and their implications. The first is from none other than the IDC's Sumit Ganguly and comes from the Wall Street Journal. In the piece, Dr. Ganguly talks about how this election marks a critical gauge of India's secularist principles. The second piece, by Kanishk Tharoor recently appeared at Open Democracy. The third piece comes from the Institute for Democracy in South Africa and outlines the key issues and dynamics governing this week's election.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123963926149213859.html>

[http://www.opendemocracy.net/india/article/kanishk\\_tharoor/india\\_votes\\_09](http://www.opendemocracy.net/india/article/kanishk_tharoor/india_votes_09)

<http://www.polity.org.za/page/institute-for-democracy-in-south-africa/first:1>

<http://www.polity.org.za/article/south-africans-vote-in-toughest-test-for-anc-2009-04-22>

2. This link takes you to the audio file of the OSI's recent talk on Truth and Trust in modern Iraq:

[http://www.soros.org/initiatives/fellowship/events/iraq\\_20090407](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/fellowship/events/iraq_20090407)

3. Indiana University graduate student Rafia Zakaria comments on the spiraling situation in Pakistan:

[http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C04%5C18%5Cstory\\_18-4-2009\\_pg3\\_3](http://dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C04%5C18%5Cstory_18-4-2009_pg3_3)

4. This piece from the World Policy Journal is a very interesting look at the dilemma of stateless persons and the weakness of frail states at protecting the fundamental thing that makes it possible for people to access modernity; their ability to claim citizenship.

<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/wopj.2009.26.1.3>

5. Here is a link to the ICG's April Crisis Watch Report:

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6035&l=1>

6. Here is a link to the World Movement for Democracy's webpage:

<http://www.wmd.org/>