



EDP Interactions

Newsletter #2

DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE

Dear readers,

The Leibniz-sponsored research network “External Democracy Promotion” (EDP) would like to draw your attention to the recent edition of EDP Interactions, the semi-annual newsletter. It comes at a time when democracy is, for the first time since decades, heavily and visibly contested within established democracies. We currently observe how cornerstones of democratic control of power, such as independent judiciary and media, are increasingly undermined by democratically elected leaders – be it in the United States, in Poland or in Germany. Supporting democratic values within Western communities has become an imperative for civil society actors, parliamentarians and journalists alike. Academically, we have to raise doubts about whether or not established knowledge on the level of consolidation of democracies or the concept of checks and balances is still valid. As the

EDP network, we will pick up these questions and discuss the “contestation of democracy” and the role of “internal democracy promotion” in the upcoming months. If you want to join us in the discussion or if you are interested in becoming a guest contributor for the EDP Wire on our website, feel free to get in touch with us.

Best regards from
Erfurt, Germany

**Solveig for the
EDP Network**



Network Meeting at the HU, Berlin

NEWS

05. December 2016 | **Apply now: Summer School on Democracy and Democracy Promotion at University of St Gallen/Call for Applications for Doctoral Researchers**

The Summer School in Democracy Studies takes place at the University of St. Gallen from 26 to 30 June 2017. EDP member Tina Freyburg is organizing the Summer School, together with the [NCCR Democracy](#). The programme involves five one-day sessions, each focused on a relevant aspect of democracy or democracy promotion in a globalizing world. It will give the participants an opportunity to discuss their individual research projects in small groups and with acknowledged international experts in their field. Apply until March 1, 2017. More **information** [here](#).



31. January 2017 | Network members meet at Humboldt University, its latest network addition »

11. November 2016 | EDP visiting expert at PRIF to focus on “democracy reception” »

29. October 2016 | Civil societies globally under pressure – countering the „closing space“ phenomenon »

02. October 2016 | EDP Network endorses Call for Solidarity in support of Turkish academics »

16. September 2016 | Scholars discuss “Democracy Promotion as Interaction” at EDP Workshop in Frankfurt »

Read all **News** [here](#).





PUBLICATIONS

JULIA LEININGER | 2016

It's institutions, not theology! Muslim actors' influence on democratization in Mali. In: *Politics and Religion* 9:4, 815-842.

JONAS WOLFF | 2016

Negotiating interference: US democracy promotion, Bolivia and the tale of a failed agreement. In: *Third World Quarterly*, published online: 21 March 2016.

JONAS WOLFF, LISBETH ZIMMERMANN | 2016

Between Banyans and battle scenes: Liberal norms, contestation, and the limits of critique. In: *Review of International Studies* 42: 3, 513-534.

See all **Publications** [here](#).

HIGHLIGHT

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin new EDP network partner

We are happy to announce that the EDP network has expanded. With the beginning of 2017, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin has joined us as network partner and is represented by Johannes Gerschewski (formerly WZB) in the research unit on comparative analysis of political systems. The WZB is now represented by Julian Brückner, whose profile is coming soon on our website. We are very much looking forward to new inputs from the institutional and individual additions to our network!



EDP WIRE

JONAS WOLFF | 2016

Latin-American inspirations for Postliberal Peacebuilding

Jonas argues that the political changes in certain South American countries, including most notably Bolivia, could act as inspirations in the ongoing search for locally grown, hybrid variants of a post-liberal peace. [read more »](#)

JULIA LEININGER | 2016

Contextualizing democracy promotion

Julia identifies five sets of factors that help to identify patterns of democracy promotion's context – to better understand and explain democracy promotion in the future: individual, societal, cultural, political and spatial. [read more »](#)



OUTLOOK

Democracy Promotion Negotiation— Authors Workshop for Special Issue

For its planned special issue on democracy promotion negotiation, the network organizes an authors workshop on May 18 and 19, 2017 at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt in order to discuss all authors' contributions. Through the analytical perspective of negotiation, the special issue takes into focus the often overlooked dimension of interaction between external and local actors in democracy promotion. Specifically, we are interested in three questions: (1) what actually is on the 'negotiation table' in democracy promotion, (2) which parameters shape these negotiations, and (3) how does the negotiation process matter for the practice and outcome of democracy promotion? We are very much looking forward to interesting discussions and exchanges with a group of authors coming from four different continents.

