



EDP Interactions

Newsletter #5

Democracy Promotion in Times of Uncertainty

Dear readers,

Is democracy in crisis throughout the world and is there a need to be alarmist? And what about international democracy promotion? Is there a need for reconceptualization? We, the members of the EDP network, have been musing over these questions for the past months and are now happy to announce the publication of our PRIF Report entitled "Democracy Promotion in Times of Uncertainty: Trends and Challenges". This joint policy paper aims at giving a concise and pointed overview of key trends and challenges that characterize the field of international democracy promotion today, whether they are challenges on the "donor" side, the "recipient" side or in the global context. It is intended for practitioners, academics and all those interested in the state and future of democracy globally. Dealing with current trends in various fields of democracy promotion, it offers recommendations for democracy promoters and policy makers.

All network members have weighed in. Johannes discusses trends of autocratization and democratic rollback, Annika and Jonas elaborate on the challenges posed by shrinking civic

spaces, and Tina addresses sectoral governance as a specific strategy of international democracy promotion. Sonja and Annika deal with two international key actors with regard to democracy promotion policies: the European Union (Sonja) and the United States (Annika). Finally, the report focuses on the challenges of external democracy promotion in different world regions, namely the Arab World (Vera), Sub-Saharan Africa (Julia), the Post-Soviet Space (Solweig), and the Americas (Jonas). It is available as an open access publication [here](#) and we are looking forward to your comments!



EDP workshop on international democracy promotion at Leuphana in Lüneburg, June 2018

NEWS

October 24, 2018 | Call for Papers „Why to Fight against Dictatorship at high personal costs?“ for EDP workshop organized by Sonja Grimm in cooperation with PRIF. »

September 27, 2018 | Network meeting at PRIF in Frankfurt during the 27th GPSA congress. »

June 29, 2018 | EDP-Network meeting in Lüneburg – joint policy-paper and follow-up funding. »

April 12, 2018 | EDP-Network panel on „Negotiating International Democracy Promotion“ at ISA’s Annual Convention. »

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



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June 30, 2018 | [EDP workshop on international democracy promotion in Lüneburg](#)

On June 29 and 30, the EDP network held a workshop on international democracy promotion at the Center for the Study of Democracy at Leuphana University Lüneburg. The workshop’s goal was to reflect on the current state of the art as well as perspectives of democracy promotion as a research program. EDP members and participants took the chance to get to know each other(s’ work) as they presented current and future research projects and debated their contributions to a joint research agenda.

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PUBLICATIONS

EDP NETWORK | 2018

Democracy Promotion in Times of Uncertainty: Trends and Challenges. PRIF Report 13/2018, Frankfurt: Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

SONJA GRIMM, BRIGITTE WEIFFEN | 2018

Domestic elites and external actors in post-conflict democratisation. A Special Issue. In: Conflict, Security und Development 18: 4.

SOLVEIG RICHTER, JONAS WOLFF | 2018

Columbia Under the Duque Government. Policy options to strengthen the peace process, PRIF Spotlight 10/2018, Frankfurt: Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

JOHANNES GERSCHEWSKI, ALEXANDER DUKALSKIS | 2018

Justifying Dictatorship. Studies in Autocratic Legitimation. Routledge.

JONAS WOLFF | 2018

Las élites políticas y económicas en Bolivia y Ecuador. Convivir con gobiernos posneoliberales. In: Codato Adriano/ Espinoza Fran (eds.): Élités en las Américas. Diferentes Perspectivas, Curitiba: Editora UFPR, 73–114.

TINA FREYBURG, LISA GARBE | 2018

Blocking the Bottleneck: Internet Shutdowns and Ownership at Election Times in Sub-Saharan Africa. In: International Journal of Communication 12, 3896–3916.

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



EDP WIRE

SOLVEIG RICHTER | 2018

Peace in Colombia: Shrouded in Uncertainty

Solveig discusses the current political and societal challenges in Colombia after the elections regarding the peace process, and evaluates what the population's expectations from the incoming government are.

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Read all [EDP Wire](#) posts [here](#).

JONAS WOLFF | 2018

Strategic Responses to the „Foreign Agent“ Label

The most prominent motif used to delegitimize CSOs is the notion of “foreign agents.” Jonas argues that instead of letting governments define the terms, CSOs need to take allegations seriously and address them strategically.

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EDP workshop on international democracy promotion at Leuphana in Lüneburg, June 2018

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Tina Freyburg

In 2015, Tina was appointed as Professor of Comparative Politics at the University St.



Gallen. In her research, Tina studies the chances and risks that emerge for democracy in a globalizing and digitalizing world. Current projects examine the perception and the quality of democracy beyond the nation-state, and the promotion of democracy through conditionality and private business. It is her personal aspiration to inspire people to contribute to a humanistic and optimistic democratic society

balancing individual and social interests and needs, worldwide. Tina's newest publication include an article on [Internet Shutdowns and Ownership at Election Times in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), as well as an article on [Democracy Promotion by Functional Cooperation](#).

More about Tina Freyburg [here](#).

