



EDP Interactions

Newsletter #6

Beyond contestation: Negotiation in democracy promotion

Dear readers,

In recent years, democracy promotion has been increasingly contested. A growing number of governments and political movements question the liberal model of democracy and many openly defend illiberal and/or authoritarian practices. There is still lack of empirical evidence on how and to what extent global and local contestation of liberal democracy challenges and shapes the contents, practices and results of democracy promotion.

In our recently published Special Issue (Democratization) we have addressed this research gap. By focusing our attention on the communicative interaction between external democracy promoters and local “recipients” (governments and beyond), the study of negotiation processes allows us to analyse when and how democracy (promotion) is contested by local actors, how democracy promoters respond to such challenges, and whether and how the ensuing controversy is resolved.

As theoretical starting point, Annika, Julia, and Jonas propose a framework to conceptualise democracy promotion negotiation. Empirical contributions to the Special Issue deal with the nego-

tiation of international democracy assistance in Ethiopia (Jalale Getachew Birru/Jonas Wolff), EU democracy promotion in North Africa (Vera van Hüllen), negotiation of democracy promotion’s normative premises in Venezuela (Andrea Ribeiro Hoffmann), and the negotiation of democratic knowledge in the Middle East North African context (Jeff Bridoux).

All articles are [available as open access publication](#) at the homepage of **Democratization**. We are looking forward to your comments!



EDP workshop at PRIF, February 2019

NEWS

April 23, 2019 | Documentary ‘Citizens Offline’ by EDP member Tina Freyburg, nominated for Golden Impala Award, is online now. [»](#)

April 18, 2019 | Three network members present findings to Carnegie Democracy Group in Brussels. [»](#)

April 6, 2019 | EDP informal expert meeting in Berlin: Democracy needs help! Which role can Germany and Europe play in the world?. [»](#)

March 22, 2019 | EDP co-sponsored event on “Concepts of Peace and Peacebuilding: Europe and Beyond” in Erfurt. [»](#)

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

January 18, 2019 | EDP workshop: „Why to fight against dictatorship at high personal costs?”

EDP network members Sonja Grimm and Annika Elena Poppe organized a workshop on January 17–18 on “Why to fight against dictatorship at high personal costs? Studying political activism and its leadership in autocracies” at PRIF in Frankfurt. The workshop discussed the complex aspects of (leadership of) political protests and political activism in autocracies in five different panels with a special focus on democratization protests and their mobilization in Central and Eastern European countries as well as in Asian and African states.

[Read more »](#)





PUBLICATIONS

ANNIKA E. POPPE, JULIA LEININGER,
JONAS WOLFF | 2019

Introduction: negotiating the promotion of democracy.

In: Democratization (Special Issue), online available [here](#).

ANNIKA E. POPPE, JULIA LEININGER,
JONAS WOLFF | 2019

Beyond contestation: conceptualizing negotiation in democracy promotion.

In: Democratization (Special Issue), online available [here](#).

JELALE GETACHEW BIRRU, JONAS
WOLFF | 2019

Negotiating international civil society support: the case of Ethiopia's 2009 Charities and Societies Proclamation.

In: Democratization (Special Issue), online available [here](#).

VERA VAN HÜLLEN | 2019

Negotiating democracy with authoritarian regimes. EU democracy promotion in North Africa.

In: Democratization (Special Issue), online available [here](#).

SONJA GRIMM | 2019

Democracy Promotion in EU enlargement negotiations: more interaction, less hierarchy.

In: Democratization (Special Issue), online available [here](#).

ANNIKA E. POPPE | 2019

Harmony and Resilience: US Democracy Promotion's Basic Premises.

In: Foreign Policy Analysis, online available [here](#).

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

EDP WIRE

TINA FREYBURG, LISA GARBE

Blocking the Bottleneck: Internet Shutdowns and Ownership at Election Times

This Wire analyzes the relationship between state ownership of Internet service providers, regime type, and presence of violence in seeking to explain why internet shutdowns occur in certain situations, focusing on election periods in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more »](#)

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

SOLVEIG RICHTER, NATASHA WUNSCH

How EU conditionality entrenches state capture in the Western Balkans

Solveig Richter and Natasha Wunsch point to state capture as the core obstacle to deep democratisation in the region and argue that EU conditionality not only fails to overcome detrimental governance patterns, but unintentionally contributes to entrenching them.

[Read more »](#)



EDP workshop "Why to fight dictatorship at high personal costs?" at PRIF, January 2019

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Julia Leininger chairs the research program „Transformations of Political Order: Governance, Values and Peace“ at the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) in Bonn. She also co-coordinates DIE's Africa research. Julia teaches at the University Duisburg-Essen and in DIE's renowned Postgraduate

Course for Future Professionals in Development Policy, she furthermore is a regular faculty member of DIE's Global Governance School.

Her comparative research focuses on explaining political transformation, social cohesion in Africa and international engagement to support democratization. She has published on democracy promotion, African politics, religion and state as well as regional organizations. Julia translates her academic research into policy advice and engages in impact measurement on the effectiveness of international democracy support and state-building.

More about Julia Leininger [here](#).

