



Democracy under Stress – Coping with the Ongoing Challenges of the Pandemic



Dear Readers

While the most festive time of the year is now approaching for most of us, the Covid-19 pandemic still has our world firmly in its grip. As we are all trying to cope with the exceptional circumstances, so is democracy: elections took place under unforeseen conditions, accustomed ways of political participation and debate are trying to adapt. The EDP Network members have continued to monitor the impact of the global pandemic on democracy as well as other contemporary issues of democracy promotion. Thus, we are happy to present to you the latest news and

findings of our research in this special holiday edition **EDP Interactions #9**. We'd also like to welcome Gunnar Placzek as our new web and social media editor.

Enjoy reading and of course, for all the latest updates on our work, don't forget to follow us on Twitter ([@edp_network](https://twitter.com/edp_network))!

Hoping you are safe and healthy and wishing you happy holidays as well as a great start into 2021!

Gunnar and Rebecca, EDP Team Frankfurt

In the Spotlight: Solveig Richter



Since the beginning of this year's winter term, Prof. Dr. Solveig Richter is the new Professor for International Relations and Transnational Politics at the University of Leipzig. Previously, she was a Junior Professor for International Conflict Management at the University of Erfurt.

Her research primarily focuses on the effectiveness of various instruments of democracy promotion, such as political conditionality, with a special emphasis on the connection between democracy and peace.

In January 2020, Solveig received a research scholarship by the DFG's Heisenberg Program to carry out her project "Blended legitimacy" on non-state actors in post-conflict societies.

Read more about Solveig Richter [here](#).

News

8 December 2020

[Julia Leininger joins the Advisory Board of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance](#)

4 December 2020

[Solveig Richter receives Best Article Prize for her research on EU's political conditionality in the Western Balkans](#)

1 December 2020

[#KeepItOn – Research findings on internet shutdowns to be visualized in graphic short stories](#)

1 October 2020

[EDP Network meets in a virtual online conference to plan future strategic direction and new research ideas](#)

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



EDP Wire

18 December 2020 | Rebecca Wagner

[Kyrgyzstan Before the Presidential Elections](#)

After recent protest waves, a new constitutional reform process casts doubt on the country's future democratic path.

26 October 2020 | Annika Elena Poppe

[Between a Rock and a Hard Place: US Democracy Promotion after the 2020 Presidential Election](#)

Why a return to the Status Quo Ante is unlikely under both Biden and a second Trump administration.

17 October 2020 | Jonas Wolff, Felix S. Bethke

[COVID-19 and Shrinking Civic Spaces: Findings from a Preliminary Assessment](#)

The global threat of governmental overreach during the pandemic is real, but where can we expect lasting impacts?

29 September 2020 | Julia Leininger, Karina Mross, Daniel Nowack

[We Need Democracy Promotion to Counter Autocratisation](#)

For the first time in 20 years, there are more autocracies than democracies. The international community must act now.

27 May 2020 | Jonas Wolff a.o.

[Developing Peace: Impulses for German and International Development Cooperation](#)

Not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of implementation is the most pressing issue in development cooperation.

Read all **EDP Wires** [here](#).



[Images by Eva Gabriella Revesz Sztojalszky \(Pixabay\).](#)

Publications (selected)

Johannes Gerschewski a.o.

[Claiming the right to rule: regime legitimization strategies from 1900 to 2019](#)

In: European Political Science Review, Online First.

Johannes Gerschewski

[Explanations of Institutional Change. Reflecting on a 'Missing Diagonal'](#)

In: American Political Science Review, Online First.

Julia Leininger, Karina Mross, Christine Hackenesch

[What the EU should do for democracy support in Africa: ten proposals for a new strategic initiative in times of polarisation](#)

German Development Institute (GDI/DIE) Discussion Paper 14/2020.

Jonas Wolff

[The Turbulent End of an Era in Bolivia: Contested Elections, the Ouster of Evo Morales, and the Beginning of a Transition Towards an Uncertain Future](#)

In: Revista de ciencia política (Santiago), 40:2, 163-186.

Rebecca Wagner

[Responding to COVID-19 with 100 per cent Postal Voting: Local Elections in Bavaria, Germany](#)

In: James, Toby S./Clark, Alistair/Asplund, Erik (eds), Electoral Management Network. Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Julia Leininger a.o.

[Innovations for Sustainability: Pathways to an Efficient and Sufficient Post-Pandemic Future](#)

3rd report by The World in 2050 initiative. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria.

Jonas Wolff, Irene Weipert-Fenner

[Socioeconomic Protests in MENA and Latin America. Egypt and Tunisia in Interregional Comparison](#)

Edited Volume, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

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

