



International Democracy Promotion in the Shadow of a Global Health Crisis



Dear Readers,

The second year which has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic slowly comes to an end and another unusual Christmas celebration is right around the corner. With the introduction of the vaccine and decreasing numbers of infections, we have seen glimmers of hope for a nearing end of the pandemic which grew dim as the winter approached. While most democratic states have gotten used to coping adequately with the ever-changing circumstances, the dangers of democratic backsliding have become even clearer making 2021 the [15th consecutive year of decline in global freedom](#). This development highlights the utmost importance of democracy promotion, which has also been

the focal point of the first of two Summits for Democracy under the Biden administration. We are therefore very pleased to not only be joined by a new EDP member (see below) but to be able to present our latest newsletter: [EDP Interactions #11](#).

Since November 2021, Heinrike Rustenbeck has taken over the position of the EDP's scientific assistant, managing the Network's website and Twitter account [@edp_network](#). Get in touch via email: edp@HSFK.de.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Heinrike and Rebecca, EDP Team

News

15 December 2021

[Julia Leininger featured in German F.A.Z. Podcast](#)

9 December 2021

[Solveig Richter hosts Public Panel Discussion About Afghanistan at the University of Leipzig](#)

2 December 2021

[Leonie Holthaus organizes lecture on the Rise of Populism with Sheri Berman from Columbia University](#)

25 November 2021

[Tina Freyburg co-hosts Event for Female High School Graduates at St. Gallen University](#)

18 October 2021

[Inken von Borzyskowski is awarded Philip Leverhulme Prize 2021](#)

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

EDP Wire

8 December 2021 | Rebecca Wagner

[Parliamentary Elections in Kyrgyzstan: Another Relevant Jigsaw Piece in a new Process of Autocratization?](#)

Since the political turmoil after the 2020 parliamentary elections, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan is faced with a social and political upheaval.

17 September 2021 | Jonas Wolff, Rebecca Wagner

[Germany's Approach to Democracy Promotion in a Multipolar World: Views of the political parties before the upcoming 2021 Bundestag election](#)

This blog post compares the positions of the political parties represented in the outgoing German Bundestag to increasing threats to democracy across the globe.

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



In the Spotlight: Benjamin Schütze



EDP member Dr. Benjamin Schütze, who is an expert on Middle Eastern politics and International Relations, recently became a Junior Fellow at the Young Academy for Sustainability Research at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS). He is also a research associate at the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI).

Since October 2021, Benjamin's Cambridge Middle East Studies book „[Promoting Democracy, Reinforcing Authoritarianism: US and European Policy in Jordan](#)“ is available as an affordable paperback as well as an eBook version.

This book was reviewed by political scientist Dana El Kurd as part of an author exchange in Vol. 19(2) of „[Democracy and Autocracy](#)“.

Read more about Benjamin Schütze [here](#).

We welcome a new EDP Network member



[Vanessa Boese](#)

V-Dem Institute Gothenburg

Focus: Regime transformation

See all EDP Network members [here](#).

Publications (selected)

Daniel Nowack, Julia Leininger

[Protecting Democracy from Abroad: Democracy Aid against Attempts to Circumvent Presidential Term Limits](#)
In: Democratization.

Rebecca Wagner, Jonas Wolff, Nora Berger-Kern, Fabian Hetz

[Defending Civic Space: Successful Resistance Against NGO Laws in Kenya and Kyrgyzstan](#)
In: Global Policy, Volume 12, Issue S5, July 2021.

Anita Breuer, Julia Leininger

[Horizontal Accountability for SDG Implementation: A Comparative Cross-National Analysis of Emerging National Accountability Regimes](#)
In: Sustainability 13, 7002.

Leonie Holthaus

[Practice Theory and the Opening Up of International Organizations](#)
In: Global Studies Quarterly, Volume 1, Issue 3, September 2021.

Johannes Gerschewski

[Explanations of Institutional Change. Reflecting on a 'Missing Diagonal'](#)
In: American Political Science Review, 115:1, 218-233.

Johannes Gerschewski

[The Two Logics of Autocratic Rule.](#)
In: Cambridge University Press (forthcoming).

Constantine Boussalis, Alexander Dukalskis, Johannes Gerschewski

[Why It Matters What Autocrats Say: Assessing Competing Theories of Propaganda.](#)
In: Problems of Post-Communism (forthcoming).

See all Publications [here](#).