



Conceptualizing and Theorizing Democracy Promotion

Dear Readers,

While the world has gone through some major turbulences since our last newsletter has been published, the network can also look back on several major achievements.

Our application for network funding has successfully been approved by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for our network project „On the Conceptualization and Theorization of International Democracy Promotion in Times of Global Autocratization“ with funding sum of approximately 110.000 EUR. The fund allows the network to expand and bring in new network members as well as jointly advance research on international democracy promotion for three more years.

Furthermore, our network has grown considerably with new knowledgeable scholars and aspirants alike—including Marina Nord, Roman Stolzenberger, Malin Nissen, Tainà Siman, and Maurice Philip Schumann. We warmly welcome all new members and look very much forward to our future cooperation.

Besides publishing substantially in major international outlets, network members have significantly engaged in outreach activities to inform policy makers about recent research findings on international and European democracy promotion. For instance, Tina Freyburg participated in three workshops on democratic

movements support in the European Neighborhood. These workshops took place in Yerevan (Armenia), Chişinău (Moldova), and Tbilisi (Georgia). Moreover, Sonja Grimm and Tina Freyburg have presented research findings from their respective Horizon Europe research projects EMBRACE and REDEMOS to high-ranking EU Commission officials. And Karina Mross and Julia Leininger participated in an expert exchange meeting that tackled how democracies can be best shielded against autocratization tendencies.

The upcoming network project will profit immensely from these experiences of knowledge transfer from science to practice.

We are very much looking forward to the next three years of collaborative research in our new DFG-project, and we wish all our colleagues, friends and their families a joyous Holiday season and a happy and peaceful New Year!

Sonja and Ulvi for the EDP Network

News

12. December 2024 | News

[Karina Mross and Julia Leininger Contribute to Expert Exchange on Protecting Democracy in the Global North and South](#)

12. December 2024 | News

[From Research to EU Policy Circles](#)

12. December 2024 | News

[Successful Application for Network Funding by the DFG](#)

13. November 2024 | News

[Tina Freyburg Contributes to REDEMOS Stakeholder Conferences on Supporting Democracy in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood](#)

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Research Project

Our research project „On the Conceptualization and Theorization of International Democracy Promotion in Times of Global Autocratization“ systematically brings together insights from existing and ongoing empirical and theoretical-conceptual work of the members and expands them with the aim of closing three research gaps.

First, it captures, conceptualizes, and theorizes the impacts of autocratization in recipient countries on the politics of international democracy promotion.

Second, it examines and theorizes the implications of autocratization in donor countries for the strategy formulation and practice of democracy promotion.

Third, it analyzes the impacts of global shifts in norms and power through the rise of non-democratic donors and theorizes their consequences for international democracy promotion policy.

EDP Wire

December 12, 2024 | EDP Wire | Karina Mross

[The Dream of Dictatorship](#)

April 10, 2024 | EDP Wire | Benjamin Schütz

[Supporting Plausible Acts of Genocide: red Lines and the failure of German Middle Eastern Studies](#)

February 22, 2024 | EDP Wire | Dorothea Gädeke

[Domination](#)

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



Publications (selected)

Julia Leininger | 2024

[Religious actors and autocratization](#)

In: Aurel Croissant / Luca Tomini (Eds.), The Routledge Handbook of Autocratization, London: Routledge, 289-304.

Leonie Holthaus | 2024

[Liberal Democracy Promotion and the Observation of Democracy](#)

In: Global Society.

Prajal Pradhan, Nina Weitz, Vassilis Daioglou [...], Julia Leininger, [...] Christopher Wingens et al. | 2024

[Three foci at the science-policy interface for systemic Sustainable Development Goal acceleration](#)

In: Nature Communications 15, Article 8600.

Anna Holzscheiter, Leonie Holthaus | 2024

[Who Governs Access and Voice of Civil Society in Global Governance? Practice Theory, Reflexivity and Power in the Study of International Organisations' "Opening Up"](#)

In: Global Society, Volume 38, Issue 3.

Tanja Börzel, Johannes Gerschewski, Michael Zürn | 2024

[Introduction: The Liberal Script at the Beginning of the 21st Century](#)

In: The Liberal Script at the Beginning of the 21st Century. Conceptions, Components, Tensions (Oxford University Press).

Michael Zürn, Johannes Gerschewski | 2024

[The Liberal Script: A Reconstruction](#)

In: The Liberal Script at the Beginning of the 21st Century. Conceptions, Components, Tensions (Oxford University Press).

Anja Neundorf, Aykut Ozturk, Ksenia Northmore-Ball, Katerina Terytchnaya, Johannes Gerschewski | 2024

[A loyal base: Support for authoritarian regimes in times of crisis](#)

In: Comparative Political Studies.

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