Democracy and Democratization in Comparative Perspective: Conceptions, Conjunctures, Causes, and Consequences

Workshop at Aarhus University, November 8-9, 2012

What is democracy? Where and when – and in what guises – have there been democracies? Why has democracy emerged and held its own in some countries but not in others. What are the consequences of democracy?

This workshop provides a context for discussing these questions. The aim of the workshop is two-fold. First, to introduce and receive input to a new research project titled “The Ups and Downs of Democracy”. This research project, headed by Svend-Erik Skaaning and Jørgen Møller, can be broadly situated within the so-called ‘historical turn’ in democratization studies. We will circulate a description of the project a week before the workshop, present it and discuss some scenarios for its progression. We hope to receive input on how to proceed from the approximately 20 participants.

Second, the workshop is to provide a context in which approximately 10 junior scholars (PhD/post.doc) and a number of senior scholars can present papers and projects on subject related to democracy and democratization and receive constructive feedback. All papers should be circulated among the participants a week before the workshop, and all are expected to have read them before they are presented. The presentations will be limited to 15 minutes, with 30 minutes reserved for discussion (including 5-7 minutes for the discussant). With the workshop we hope to foster fruitful discussions and future cooperation between the participants.

Day 1

9.00-10.00 Jørgen Møller & Svend-Erik Skaaning (AU): The Ups and Downs of Democracy – A Research Agenda
Discussant: Jonas Linde

10.00-10.15 Coffee break
10.12-11.00 Carsten Anckar & Thomas Denk: *State Formation and Democratization in Comparative Perspective*
Discussant: Michael Alvarez

11.00-11.45 Merete Bech Seeberg: *The Paradox of Authoritarian Elections - Levers of Democratization or Regime Sustaining Tool?*
Discussant: Lars Svåsand

11.45-12.45 Lunch

12.45-13.30 Jessica Mattila: *The Arab Spring in Comparative Perspective – A Research Plan*
Discussant: Lise Rakner

13.30-14.15 Michael Seeberg: *Explaining Democracy against the Odds – A Hypothesis-Generating Case Study Approach*
Discussant: Lars Svåsand

14.15-14.30 Coffee break

14.30-15.15 Svein-Erik Helle: *Defining and Measuring the Evenness of the Playing Field in Electoral Authoritarian Regimes in Sub-Saharan Africa*
Discussant: Svend-Erik Skaaning

15.15-16.00 Jacob Hariri: *A Contribution to Understanding the Muslim Dummy*
Discussant: Carsten Anckar

16.00-16.45 Jonas Linde & Lise Rakner: *Elections in Hybrid Regimes*
Discussant: Abel Escribà Folch

18.30 Workshop dinner at Bryggeriet (Kannikegade 10)

**Day 2**

8.15-9.00 Sarah Lehtinen & Thomas Denk: *Democratization in New States – Empirical Results from Comparative Analyses*

Discussant: Michael Alvarez

9.00-9.45 Ragnhild Muriaas: *Institutionalizing Local Elections in Eastern and Southern Africa – Stability, Participation, Competition and Legitimacy*

Discussant: Thomas Denk

9.45-10.00 Coffee break

10.00-10.45 Carl Henrik Knutsen: *Reinvestigating the Reciprocal Relationship between Democracy and Income Inequality*

Discussant: Gerardo Munck

10.45-11.30 Jakob Tolstrup: *Political Crisis in Authoritarian Regimes*

Discussant: Abel Escribà Folch

11.30-12.15 Agnes Cornell: *Invictus – Administrative Structure and Democratic Survival*

Discussant: Jørgen Møller

12.15-13.15 Lunch
13.15-14.00 Gerardo Munck: *Publication Patterns in Comparative Politics* (public lecture)