Topic 1: Rethinking Governance & Democracy – SESSION 1

16th October. From 14:00 to 15:30. Venue X.XX.

Discussant: Joop de Wit

Charing by Blas Regnault

Diego Díaz Rioseco - Brown University

Civil and Political Society: A Balance Theory of Democratic Deepening

In this paper, I seek to conceptualize the crisis of democratic representation under the idea of cycles of interaction between civic organizations and political parties. I contend that the study of party system institutionalization and the structure of party-voter linkages need to be complemented with non-institutional approaches that integrate the role of civil society. The interaction between parties and civil society becomes a critical variable in explaining the quality of democracy, as they can interact either positively or negatively. More specifically, I claim that democratic deepening is achieved when societies approach a balance between civil and political society. This balance implies the ability of combining institutional representation and societal participation, which leads both civil and political societies to work in a cooperative logic. Here, institutionalized and programmatic parties structure the political process while at the same time are able to institutionalize participatory spaces in which civil society can engage directly with the state apart from the political society. Therefore, the recurrent crises of representation in Latin America can be understood as cycles of unbalanced civil-political society relations, which can create two types of scenario, namely: a) stable democracies under the hegemony of unrepresentative and closed political parties, or b) reactive social mobilization against political society and traditional ways of representation. Scenarios of misbalance are illustrated with the cases of Chile and Bolivia.

Sascha Rosenberger - IEE, Ruhr University Bochum

Preventing Democracy Through Education

According to several student protests in the past years, this has been the case in Chile and Colombia, where the nature of some higher education reforms would limit the scope of education and prevent local knowledge and capacity building. Following regional conflicts in relation to education, the paper analyzes the case of the education system in Paraguay, South America In order to analyze if the way knowledge is currently dealt with in the education system actually allows and will continue to allow people to meaningfully participate in society, the study employs a two-part composite analytical framework. The theoretical part is composed of three interrelated theories, the Network Society Theory, Mode 2 Knowledge Production, and the Epistemic Landscape theory; these describe the current state of interactions between different stakeholders in a highly interconnected 'glocalized' world. The qualitative analysis of their documents leads to preliminary conclusions regarding their approaches to education, which gives rise to a series of questions for interviews with their representatives. These interviews provide answers that are again examined, and lead to a second round of interviews to clarify and deepen the understanding of their approaches. This work in progress seeks to elucidate the characteristics of both soft and hard structures that are to compose the Paraguayan education system in the near future, as proposed by the different stakeholders. The relevance of the study lies in discovering the directions the education system is taking, given the differences between movements that seek to privatize or to open and keep public both knowledge and the education that leads to it, in the region and world-wide. Preliminary findings show a preference for open and socially collaborative approaches in basic education, while collaborative but tending to privatization of knowledge in higher education, indicating a future collision course.

Topic 1: Rethinking Governance & Democracy – SESSION 2

17th October. From 11:00 to 12:30. Venue X.XX.

Discussant: Dr. De Jager

Charing by Milliscent Omukaga

Carla Alberti - Brown University

Democracy in Multiethnic Societies: Indigenous Governance and Political Regimes in Rural Bolivia.

More than two decades have passed since Latin American countries recognized their multiethnic nature. This "rediscovery" has spurred a wave of interest on the role ethnicity plays in Latin American societies and their political systems. In this context, many political scientists studied the emergence of ethnicity as a political identity, and the later actions by indigenous social movements and parties. This process also uncovered a political reality of indigenous groups beyond contentious and electoral dynamics, namely: the persistence of indigenous governments parallel to state institutions. Although these forms of governance have not been equally recognized throughout the region, the fact is that rule by customary law occurs *de facto* in many rural, indigenous areas in Latin America. Indigenous governments are pivotal political actors, and essential to understand how indigenous actors, organizations, and parties combine to affect local politics in Bolivia and other multiethnic societies. This paper aims to uncover the political dynamics of indigenous forms of governance. In particular,*why is it that some forms of indigenous governance are more democratic than others?*

Hlokoma Mangqalaza - University of Stellenbosch

What is the impact of democracy or the existence of democratic institutions on the livelihoods of people and societies?

This study takes a systematic approach of empirical literature review as a methodology. The main focus is to better understand how institutional and organisational proximity can be applied to maintain sustainable rural systems of innovation, particularly in developing countries with unfavourable infrastructure. Existing empirical evidence shows that innovative activities in any locality cannot be separated from the "living context". Local behaviours, attitudes, visions, approaches and practices of the actors involved in the interactive process will dominate. Furthermore, the history of the local space affects the present activity that takes place amongst actors. This stems from the rules and traditions that have been applied by local actors overgenerations..

Salomé Teuteberg - University of Stellenbosch

The Social Contract and the South African Constitution

South Africa's transition to democracy has been hailed as exemplary in the field of conflict resolution and constitution-making. The negotiated settlement was expected to serve as a consensual constitutional framework boding well for the newly democratic regime, but by 2014 evidence was accumulating of an emerging dissensus on the South African Constitution. The puzzle is that this 'dissensus' follows from a widely supported negotiation process that brought a peaceful end to a long, drawn-out conflict. The literature on the South African transition does not anticipate this emerging constitutional dissensus. While there was widespread endorsement of the ratification of the constitution, an apparent divergence has emerged about its meaning and what is stands for.

Angelica Maria Ocampo - International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University ISS

What states for what democracies? Reflexion from the experiences of young men and women in the Sur de Bolívar in Colombia

The paper will show some of the results related to the questions of how do different peasant generations living in some Colombian rural territories perceive and understand "the state" and how their experiences in the midst of armed conflict challenge the identity of the state in Colombia. The results suggest the importance of considering the subjective and embodied dimension of state formation in rural areas as key factor of agrarian and democratic transformations in the country. At the same time they offer some insights to rethink the relation "State-Peasant Youth" in a possible scenario of post-conflict transition.

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Topic 2: Global governance and development cooperation
16th October. From 14:00 to 15:30 Venue X.XX.

Discussant: Anja Zorop

Charing by Ome Chattranond

Susanne Steiger - University of Bielefeld

Undermining democracy? The impact of expert advice on policy processes and governance in aid receiving countries

A core idea of democracy is that government policies and institutions reflect the preferences of the people, and that decision-making is guided by a society's shared beliefs, values and needs. In aid receiving democracies, however, this principle of responsiveness is undermined by the influence of external powers: While the rhetoric of 'conditionality' has been abandoned by the international community, donors now use 'expert advice' to exert influence on political agendas and to transmit governance concepts in line with their own political ideologies. Evidence for such implications is provided by empirical research in Tanzania and South Africa investigating the impact of external advice on policy processes and governance in the fields of health, environment and education. Drawing on expert interviews and document analysis, the study reveals an intimate involvement of donor representatives, advisors and consultants in shaping the fabrics of the young democracies: Operating in the centres of power, they influence policy content by bringing in expertise and international experience; they determine the pace and agendas of policy processes through facilitation; and they shape governance practices and systems by introducing managerial methodologies and assisting to (re-) structure organisations. In the Tanzanian education sector, the influence of external experts seems particularly profound, as a detailed reconstruction of policy processes presented in this paper shows.

Fred Borson - University of Nottingham, UK

Implications of Multiple Development Aid Procurement Rules in Developing African Countries: a Case Study of Ghana

This research uses Ghana as a case study in examining the possible policy implications for applying multiple procurement rules. The research employs a doctrinal approach and relies on procurement practitioners in Ghana to clarify and confirm the application of the rules. The research argues that, with the inherent lack of capacity in developing countries, aid beneficiary countries are subjected to complex and unnecessarily burdensome obligations from donors and leaves aid beneficiary states with limited policy space to pursue domestic objectives. The research is a work in progress in analysing procurement procedures of some donors including the EU external actions and the World Bank. The research questions the justification for the current aid architecture and considers perhaps a possible harmonization of the rules as an approach to aid effectiveness.

Sylvanus Kwaku Afesorgbor and Christian Bjørnskov - Aarhus University, Denmark

Aid and Inequality Revisited

The effectiveness of foreign aid on economic growth has been extensively researched but with quite controversial and negative results. In this paper, we instead revisit the question if foreign aid affects the distribution of income. Our question is predicated on the premise that even if aid does not affect the long-run growth rate, it might still reduce poverty by affecting the within-country income distribution. Compared to the existing literature, our paper introduces three new features: 1) the use of new and more precise, comparable data on income inequality enabling the separation of pre and post-policy inequality; 2) measures of aid decomposed into four separable types; and 3) the distinction between stable and unstable regime types. In panel estimates from 110 developing countries

for the period 1975-2010, we find that while most aid is ineffective in affecting the income distribution, one type does so adversely under non-democratic political institutions.

Topic 3: Service delivery, accountability and decentralization - SESSION 1 -
16th October. From 14:00 to 15:30 Venue X.XX.

Discussant: John Cameron

Charing by Kai Tevapitak

Minashree Horo - Jawaharlal Nehru University

Translating communitization in health: A case of village health and sanitation committees (vhsc) within national rural health mission (nrhm) in jharkhand (India): The paper explored the Communitization process within the VHSCs under the NRHM through analysis of its conceptualization, implementation and community involvement. The study was carried out in Jharkhand a newly formed Tribal dominated state emerged in adverse initial conditions with the little social development including health. A qualitative study of the VHSCs was conducted in the intervention (NGOs) and non-intervention (Government only) area purposively selected from the two Tribal dominated districts namely Gumla and Khunti of Jharkhand state in India by using different techniques like In-depth interviews, Key informant interviews, questionnaires, semi-structured schedules and observations of the 74 respondents of different categorized stakeholders of VHSCs. The field work survey completed in 2012. The analysis was done by organizing broadly into four domains according to the spirit of the approach, namely community participation, decentralization, social mobilization and Communitization.

Jaya Goyal - TaTa Institute of Social Sciences, India

Accountability in a Democratic State: Can it explain differential service delivery of child nutrition programmes in India?
This research uses Ghana as a case study in examining the possible policy implications for applying multiple procurement rules. The research employs a doctrinal approach and relies on procurement practitioners in Ghana to clarify and confirm the application of the rules. The research argues that, with the inherent lack of capacity in developing countries, aid beneficiary countries are subjected to complex and unnecessarily burdensome obligations from donors and leaves aid beneficiary states with limited policy space to pursue domestic objectives. The research is a work in progress in analysing procurement procedures of some donors including the EU external actions and the World Bank. The research questions the justification for the current aid architecture and considers perhaps a possible harmonization of the rules as an approach to aid effectiveness.

Michaela Marcatelli – Erasmus University ISS, The Netherlands

'A better life for all'? A water perspective on 20 years of democracy in South Africa   In this paper, I will present the preliminary research findings of a one-year period of fieldwork in the Waterberg. Following the insights of 'multi-sited ethnography',2 I have selected three main sites for the collection of primary data, namely the rural town of Mabatlane/Vaalwater and its township Leseding; commercial farms; and game farms. Here, I have conducted participant observation, structured and semi-structured interviews. Also, I have carried out focused interviews with representatives of the local and national government.

Love Idahos, Justin van Dijk - University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Twenty Years of freedom: the Role of Social Grants in Addressing Inequality in a Young Democracy

Making use of three waves of the National Income Dynamics Study data set, this paper provides more insight into the extent to which social grants in South Africa generate spillover effects that might negatively affect equality and therewith pose challenges to democratic values. Initial econometric results support the idea that social grants do perpetuate unemployment. But by taking the tests further, it was shown that for the Old Persons Grant the dependents of persons receiving a grant are less likely to be economically inactive. However, evidence is also presented to show that the increased unemployment effect picked up might not be undesirable as it might be due to increased bargaining power accrued to the working age individuals via an increase in the disposable income.

Topic 3: Service delivery, accountability and decentralization - SESSION 2 -
17th October. From 11:00 to 12:30 Venue X.XX.

Discussants: Bert Helmsing and Georgina Gomez?

Charing by Kai Tevapitak

Zemzem Shigute and Arjun S. Bedi – Erasmus University, ISS. The Netherlands

What changes when allowing local participation? Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), which started operating in 2005, is one of the world's largest food security programs. The aim of the program is to provide support to chronically food insecure rural households while at the same time develop long-term solutions by creating durable rural infrastructure. While studies on the PSNP have examined various features of the program such as targeting and its impact on household poverty, there is limited knowledge on the quality of infrastructure built through the program. Motivated by the long-term objective of the program and its participatory planning approach, this paper analyses the role of the program's Community Based Participatory Watershed Development approach in influencing a project's physical condition and its operational status. The paper is based on survey data and technical assessments provided by soil and water conservation engineers covering a sample of 118 Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) projects located in 49 watershed communities. The location of multiple projects, with differing levels of community participation in the same watershed communities allows us to provide estimates of participation after controlling for community fixed effects. We find that projects in which communities play a larger role in planning and implementation are substantially less likely to be damaged. However, there is no effect of the level of community participation in usage and maintenance on project

Emma Haiyambo - University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Has Democracy Brought Welfare and Efficiency? : A Review of Namibia's Decentralization Policy

This study aims to determine the effect of Namibia's Decentralisation Policy on the livelihood of people and communities at local and regional level, 16 years after it came into effect. This should give an idea about the extent at which policy objectives are being met, and whether the Policy_s promised benefits are being realised. It utilizes a case study of one of the country's regional authority to evaluate the effect, and thus performs an evaluation of the possible effects of decentralisation on important social outcomes and the efficiency aspect. The theoretical framework is the core logic of fiscal decentralisation, which states that to care about growth and poverty issues, one should be concerned about efficiency-supplying services up to the point at which, at the margin, the welfare benefit to society matches its cost (Ebel and Yilmaz, 2002). Although the results point to a positive picture, all is not rosy with the implementation process; hence there is scope for improvement to ensure effective implementation.

Louis Scheepers – University of University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Service Delivery protest as a form of Democratic Expression

The article describes how the South African society, from pre-colonial times to the present, has been characterised by an active citizenry, willing, even in the face of excessive repression, to challenge their elected leaders and government as a whole when they are not satisfied with the level of service delivery or democratic practices. Data is provided on service delivery improvements after the democratisation of South Africa and how, notwithstanding these service delivery improvements, service delivery protests commenced and spread to the point where a pattern has now been set for how communities in South Africa display their dissatisfaction with anything ranging from lack of access to basic services such as water, sewage, electricity and rubbish, removal; corruption and nepotism, councillors failure to respond to demands and written protests; failure by the municipality and Eskom to provide 'free basic electricity'; poor service delivery, unacceptable living conditions, nepotism, unwarranted salary increases, irregularities in the allocation of tenders and RDP houses, weak management and a host of other reasons.