

CAN AND SHOULD ALL COUNTRIES BECOME DEMOCRACIES?

CONFERENCE ARRANGED BY NTNU'S GLOBALIZATION PROGRAMME AND THE FOCUS
GROUP 'INTERCULTURAL DYNAMICS'¹ IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PROGRAM
FOR APPLIED ETHICS²

SEPTEMBER 30TH AND OCTOBER 1ST 2010

Introduction

With the end of the Cold War and thus fall of communism, democracy became the recipe not only for securing human rights but also for prosperity and peace. Some scholars (Fukuyama (1989; 1992) even went as far as arguing that we are witnessing the 'end of history'. In much a similar vein, Amartya Sen (1999) argues that democracy is now an universal value. Further, the war against terrorism (following the September 11, 2001 bombings), seems to a large extent to rest upon this type of reasoning, hence the military interventions first in Afghanistan and later in Iraq. At the same time, critical voices have become louder. Questions about whether democracy really is something that can be crafted everywhere, independent of culture, values and socio-economic level have become timely. So has the question of whether democracy is something that can be successfully imposed on another country, or whether this has to be a more natural and gradual process. In other words, to what extent and in what manner should the international community intervene in internal affairs in order to promote democracy? Are there any (societal) risks or (ethical) concerns that we should be aware of? If so – which ones? What do we know twenty years into the third wave of democratization?

In order to shed light to these questions we are proud to announce our detailed programme for the conference below.

¹ <http://www.ntnu.no/global>

² <http://www.ntnu.no/anvendtetikk/>

Programme:

Thursday, September 30th:

10:00 - 13:00 *Session 1: Democracy, Prosperity and Peace*

10:00-10:15: 'Opening remarks, welcome'

10:15-11:15: **Nils Petter Gleditsch, Senior Researcher Peace Research Institute, Oslo and Center for the Study of Civil War/ Professor II, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU**

'Towards A More Peaceful World - Is Democracy the Answer?'

11:15-11:30 Coffee and refreshments

11:30-12:30: **Torbjørn L. Knutsen, Professor, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU**

'Democracy and the Radiance of Goodness'

12:30-13:00: 'Discussion'

13:00-14:00: Lunch

14:00 – 18:00 *Session 2: Democracy and its Prerequisites*

14:00-14:30: **Tanja Ellingsen, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU; Member of the focus group 'Intercultural Dynamics'**

'Democracy and Civilizations: Is Democracy (Electoral as well as Liberal) Universally Applicable?'

14:30-15:00: **Indra de Soysa, Professor, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU; Director Globalization Programme**

'Can Culture Clashes Chastize Democracy Through the Market? A Reply to William Easterly'

15:00-15:15: Coffee and refreshments

- 15:15-15:45: **Håvard Hegre (w/ Martin Austvoll Nome), Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo**
 'Disentangling Democracy and Development as Determinants of Armed Conflict'
- 15:45-16:15: **Francisco Gutierrez Sanin: Researcher, Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Relaciones Internacionales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia**
 'Democracy and Statefailure' (to be confirmed)
- 16:15-16:30: Coffee and refreshments, waffles
- 17:00-17:30: **Eldred Masununguru: Head, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, University of Zimbabwe, and Director of the Mass Public Opinion Institute, Harare**
 'Incremental Democratization under Conditions of Contested Equilibrium: The Case of Zimbabwe.'
- 17:30-18:00: **Magnus Rom Jensen: MA Student, Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU**
 'China and Democracy: Not Now, Maybe Later?'
- 20:00: Dinner at *Emilies*

Friday, October 1st:

- 09:00-13:00 *Session 3: Exporting Democracy: Dilemmas and Pitfalls*
- 09:00-09:30: **Bjørn Erik Rasch, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo**
 'Democratization by Piecemeal Change of Authoritarian Constitutions'
- 09:30-10:00: **Arne Strand, Deputy Director, Research Director, Peace, Conflict and the State and Public Sector Reform, CMI, Bergen**
 'Afghanistan: A Democracy for Whom?'
- 10:00-10:15: Coffee and refreshment

- 10:15-10:45: **David Chandler: Professor of International Relations at the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster**

'The Dangers of too much Autonomy: The New Discourse of Democracy Promotion'
- 10:45-11:15: **Allen Andrew Alvarez, post.doc., Globalization Programme, Department of Philosophy , NTNU**

'Ought implies can: taking enabling conditions seriously'
- 11:15-11:30: Coffee and refreshments
- 11:30-12:00: **Helge Høybråten: Professor, Department of Philosophy, NTNU**

'Representatio identittatis and the Future of Totalitarian Democracy'.
- 12:00-12:30: **May Thorseth: Professor, Department of Philosophy, NTNU; Director of Programme for Applied Ethics, NTNU; Head of the focus group Intercultural Dynamics, Globalisation Programme, NTNU**

'Global Democracy – A Quest for Reflective Judgment Worldwide'
- 12:30-13:00: Concluding remarks, farewell
- 13:00: Lunch