

RedGob Annual Conference 2014

zda

Zentrum für
Demokratie
Aarau

Centre for Research on Direct Democracy c2d | UZH
Allgemeine Demokratieforschung | UZH
Politische Bildung und Geschichtsdidaktik | PH FHNW

New experiments of direct democracy: Consequences for governability and development

Aarau, 12-13 December 2014

The **Red Euro-Latinoamericana de Gobernabilidad para el Desarrollo** is a network of renowned European and Latin American research institutions which aim to generate a space for the exchange of knowledge on the subjects of governability, public policy, institutional reform and development. Furthermore, it aims to build a bridge for academics, experts and policy-making officials from Europe and Latin America. The network seeks to promote research, debate and the accumulation of knowledge on the above mentioned topics, as well as further reflection from a European perspective. In order to accomplish these tasks, RedGob organises annual conferences and seeks to publish the material from these conferences.

The conference language is English. Attendants have until 10 December to register with name, affiliation and day(s) of attendance via email to: pedro.capravieira@uzh.ch.

RedGob 2014 Conference Committee: Yanina Welp (ZDA), Leonardo Morlino (Luiss), Manuel Alcantara Saéz (University of Salamanca), Detlef Nolte (GIGA Hamburg), Laurence Whitehead (Nuffield College, Oxford)

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Friday 12.12.2014 (KUK)

9:00-11:00 **Direct democracy and its consequences**
Chair: Dr. Saskia Ruth (ZDA and University of Zurich)

This panel addresses the consequences of direct democracy. More and more democracies around the world include instruments of direct democracy complementary to their representative institutions to enable citizens to directly influence public policy. However, the consequences of these direct democratic institutions are still understudied. Therefore, this panel will concentrate on two aspects of this research agenda: first, the consequences of direct democratic instruments on public policy outcomes; and second, the consequences of direct democratic instruments on representative democracy in general.

“Direct democracy in Switzerland: The growing tension between domestic and foreign politics”

Prof. Dr. Pascal Sciarini (University of Geneva)

“Direct democracy and its consequences: The German case”

Prof. Dr. Brigitte Geissel (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)

“Latin America's direct democracy:
More responsiveness or a new tool for populism?”

Dr. Yanina Welp (ZDA)

Discussants:

Prof. Dr. Scott Desposato (University of Zurich), Dr. Bert Hoffmann (GIGA)

11:30-13:30 **Assessing the recall referendum**
Chair: Dr. Yanina Welp (ZDA)

Recall referendums are defined as a bottom up mechanism of direct democracy, activated by collection of signatures and designed to remove an elected authority from office through a vote. In 2013 there were 5,000 attempts for a recall referendum in Peru; between 2008 and 2010 more than 700 attempts were registered in Ecuador (and more than 100 resulted in a referendum); hundreds of attempts have also been registered in Bolivia in 2012 and Colombia since 1991, including a recall process against the Mayor of Bogotá, Gustavo Petro. It is at the local level where this institution has been activated most frequently and where it has, at times, been responsible for major political changes. The session discusses institutional designs, contexts of activation and consequences for legitimacy and governability.

“A primer on the institutional functions of recall”

Dr. Uwe Serdült (ZDA)

“Recall: Rise and fall in Ecuador's contemporary democracy”

Dr. Franklin Ramírez (FLACSO)

“Recall, electoral promise and negativity: reflections based on the Latin American experiences”

Dr. Rocío Annunziata (UBA-CONICET)

Discussants:

Prof. Dr. Simón Pachano (FLACSO), Prof. Dr. Manuel Alcántara (Universidad de Salamanca, FLACSO)

RedGob Annual Conference 2014

14:30–16:30 Constitutional reform and citizen's participation

Chair: Prof. Dr. Laurence Whitehead (Oxford University)

In all cases analysed in this panel we are seeking overall assessments of the consequences of constitutional rewrites that were then subject to referendum approval. Voters were not invited to examine the drafts produced by constitutional assemblies- only to say "yes" or "no". So did direct democracy legitimate the new dispensations in detail, or merely ratify the general idea of a new constitution? Was the text drafted or modified with a view to securing strong popular endorsement, and if so in what respects?

“Constitutional conventions and citizen's participation”

Dr. Jonathan Wheatley (ZDA)

“Voting, bargaining, and arguing: The role of referendums in democratic constitution making”

Dr. Gabriel Negretto (CIDE, México)

“Constitutional plebiscite and institutional consumption”

Dr. Luis Verdesoto (FLACSO)

Discussants: **Dr. Sumit Bisarya (IDEA), Simon Bornschier (University of Zurich)**

17:00 – 17:30 Beyond transitions

Chair: Prof. Dr. Andreas Glaser (ZDA, University of Zurich)

“Postautonomy and its discontents:

On the politics of Latin American cultural studies”

Dr. Jens Andermann (University of Zurich)

17:30 – 19:00 Citizen's participation in Latin America: threatening or reinforcing democracy?

“Citizen's participation on transitions to democracy”

Prof. Dr. Leonardo Morlino (LUISS, Rome)

“Problems of reconciling (direct) democracy with representative forms of constitutional government”

Prof. Dr. Laurence Whitehead (Oxford University)

RedGob Annual Conference 2014

Saturday 13.12.2014 (ZDA, Villa Blumenhalde)

09:00 – 11:00 Referendums on self-determination
Chair: Fernando Méndez (ZDA)

This panel focusses on the increased saliency of referendums related to matters of self-determination. This has been recognised most recently with the various popular votes in the Ukraine and the referendums in two regions of the European Union, Scotland and Catalonia. Two aspects of the self-determination referendum will be addressed: 1) the empirical prevalence of the phenomenon over time and space; and 2) case study presentations on region-specific instances and the conceptual/theoretical issues that they raise.

“Amicable splits or contested divorce-settlements? A comparative historical overview of independence referendums 1860-2014”

Dr. Matt Qvortrup (Cranfield University)

“The Scottish independence referendum: A model for self-determination referendums?”

Prof. Dr. Stephen Tierney (University of Edinburgh)

“Catalan secessionism: Young people's expectations and political change”

Prof. Dr. Montserrat Guibernau (Queen Mary University of London)

Discussants: Nicolas Aubert and Micha Germann (ZDA)

11:30 -12:00 Final Remarks
Prof. Dr. Philippe Schmitter (European University Institute)
(to be confirmed)