

CALL FOR PAPERS



*The Center for Democracy and Civil Society at Georgetown University
In Cooperation With
Freedom House & the Forum for the Study of Democracy*

*Invite Paper Submissions for
The Graduate Student and Junior Practitioners Symposium*

“Democrats, Dictators, and Demonstrators: Sharing Strategies on Repression and Reform”

Topic and Theme:

Democracy assistance practitioners and scholars focus attention on linkages primarily between international donors and recipients in government or civil society. These relationships are important foci for understanding the process of “political learning,” but many other mechanisms are less understood. Strategies for repression and reform are being shared across borders and a broader framework is required to capture these linkages.

Two potential mechanisms for international cooperation on democratic reform appear understudied. First, advances in technology and communications reduce barriers to cooperation between civil society actors and allow them to share best practices on reform. So called “twitter revolutions” in Iran and Xinjiang earlier this year for example demonstrate the ability of new technologies to connect demonstrators to the global community. The existence of these interactions is acknowledged, but systematic understanding of how this cooperation occurs and its potential to influence reform is not yet developed. Second, regional organizations are increasingly involved in promoting international standards of behavior, including democracy. The African Union spoke out strongly against the military coup leaders in Guinea, while the Organization of American States condemned the coup in Honduras. More broadly, democratic values are embodied in the charters of multilateral organizations as varied as the EU and ASEAN. However, the role of these organizations in furthering reform, and their relationship with domestic actors, both governments and civil society, warrants additional study.

Democrats and demonstrators are not the only ones learning. Democrats must contend with cooperation between their authoritarian adversaries. Authoritarians are learning to manage access to technology, cooperating in regional organizations, and providing alternatives to democratic governance models. Cooperation between authoritarian governments is assumed, but the mechanisms through which it occurs remain largely unknown.

This conference looks to broaden our understanding of cooperation between both reformers and authoritarians at the level of high and low politics. We welcome all submissions that illuminate these interactions, their impact on democratization, and the implications they carry for democracy assistance strategies.

Eligibility:

This is a graduate student and practitioner symposium. Both masters and PhD candidates in the social sciences and humanities are welcome to apply. Recent PhD graduates who hold post-doctoral fellowships are also eligible. Additionally, democracy practitioners with less than 10 years experience are welcome to participate.

Event Information:

The symposium will be held on December 10, 2009 in Washington, DC. Selected participants who do not reside in the DC area are responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

Deadlines:

The final deadline for submitting a 250 word abstract is October 30, 2009. If selected, your papers must be sent to both your session chair and respondent by November 27, 2009.

Other:

The directors and faculty of the Center for Democracy and Civil Society will select outstanding papers for publication in a special edition of the bi-annual *Democracy and Society* series. Authors will be contacted for permission after selections have been made.

Please email submissions (MS Word preferred) to cdacsconference@gmail.com. Endnotes preferred. Please include your name, department or organization, title, and contact information.

For further inquiries, please contact one of the conference's co-conveners:

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