

# 4th Annual International Graduate Student Conference

June 2 & 3 , 2009 - PARIS, France



American Graduate School  
of International Relations  
and Diplomacy



## Questioning Democracy

in the 21st Century

Relevant, Redundant, or Risk ?

Conference@agsird.edu  
www.agsird.edu

AGSIRD is an official campus of  
**ARCADIA**  
UNIVERSITY

## June 2

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9 - Breakfast and Check-In

10 - Conference and Opening

10:30 - 12:30 - Panel 1

### DOMESTIC DEMOCRATIC ISSUES

Panel Chair: **Dr. Arun Kapil**

**Eric Miller (AGSIRD)**

- Why the Democratic Republic of Congo Remains Undemocratic

**Saulo Souza (University of Cambridge)**

- Growing Inequality and Conflicts over land: a call for government intervention in the democratic Brazilian countryside

**Victor Ojakorotuno (Monash University, Johannesburg) &**

**Emmanuel Knight (GLOVIC Consultance, Johannesburg)**

- State reconstitution and the Challenge of Democracy in Somalia

**Rachel Brophy (Arcadia Univesity)**

- Power Sharing: the Democratic Option for Post-Conflict Societies

12:30 - 14:00 - Lunch

14:30 - 16:30 - Panel 2

### SPECIAL ISSUES IN DEMOCRACY

Panel Chair: **Dr. Alfio Cerami**

**Jeevan Baniya (Sungkonghoe University)**

- What Went Wrong with Liberal Democracy? The Case Study of Nepal

**Marina Vasilevskaya (MGIMO - University)**

- Contradictions of Democratic Peace Theory: A Case Study of Hamas

**Bilge Azgin (University of Manchester)**

- Thinking and Questioning Hybridity in the 21st Century

**Aamina Awan (London School of Economics)**

- Where does Gender Equality Fall in the Discourse of Democracy in the Middle East? A closer look at the process of democratization in Morocco

**Nathan O'Neil (AGSIRD)**

- Droughts and Democracies: Centralizing Authority in the Face of Climate Change

17:00 - Closing

Evening Plans to be announced

**June 3**

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**9:30** - Breakfast

**10:00** - Opening

**10:30 - 12:30** - Panel 3

**GLOBAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**Panel Chair: Dr. Nikita Harwich**

**Jose G. Vargas-Hernandez** (University of Guadalajara)

- The Transfer of Governance from the Nation  
State to a Corporate Global Economy

**Konstantia Kallara & Styllanos Zarras**

(University of Macedonia-Thessaloniki)

- Promoting Democracy by Democratizing  
International Organizations

**Mykola A Genyk & Maria V. Senych** (Subcarpathian  
National University)

- Threats and Challenges for Democracy in East Central  
Europe

**Joshua Miller** (American University)

- Democratizing the Democratic Deficit

**12:30 - 14:00** - Lunch

**14:30 - 16:30** - Panel 4

**DEMOCRATIC THEORY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Panel Chair: Dr. Steve McGiffen**

**Renee Y Xia** (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

- Universal Ideas and Particular Constraints of  
Modern Democracies

**Hamad H. Balucci** (University of Bahrain)

- The Myth of Democracy: An Anarchist Perspective

**Inken Von Borzyskowski** (University of Wisconsin)

- Social Learning and Transitions to Democracy  
In South and East Asia

**Joseph Beaudreau & Patrick Clairzier** (AGSIRD)

- Neoliberal Democracy: A Contradiction in Terms

**17:00** - Closing

Evening plans to be announced

The American Graduate School of  
International Relations and Diplomacy  
& The Graduate Student Conference Committee  
are proud to present  
AGS Graduate Student Conference 2009  
June 2 & 3, 2009

**Questioning Democracy in the 21st Century:  
Relevant, Redundant or Risk?**

Democracy as a form of governance has a tumultuous history. Today, it has entered the jargon of international governance as the buzzword signifying civility and order. Democracy, its definition and content have been highly debated, recommended, exported, and above all, highly criticized. George Bernard Shaw said, "Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few." And J.S Mill wrote "If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind."

The 21st century was inaugurated by an almost complete lack of other dominant forms of governance on the world's stage. Democracy became the catchword not only for aspirations of peoples but also for foreign policy goals of western governments. But, if history is to teach us anything, it is that nothing is static and nothing is stable.

The AGS Graduate Student Conference 2009 will bring together students and academics, professionals and researchers in order to present studies on this immensely important topic. We have invited papers that explore broad concepts of democracy while examining key questions.

AGSIRD 101 bd Raspail 75006 Paris, France  
Telephone: 33 (0)1 47 20 00 94  
Email: [info@agsird.edu](mailto:info@agsird.edu)