

WORKSHOP

Democracy Promotion – Crisis at Home, Assistance Abroad?

The Decline in Democracy and Its Effect on Democracy Promotion

**Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)
University of Mannheim, Germany**

November 14-15, 2019

Organizing Committee

Anne Pintsch, MZES, University of Mannheim

Cosima Meyer, University of Mannheim

Dennis Hammerschmidt, University of Mannheim

Venue

MZES, A5,6 (section A), Conference room A 231 (2nd floor)

Introduction

Democracy and democracy promotion are facing a challenging time. The Western world experiences a continuous decline in democracy while at the same time being at the forefront of democracy promotion abroad. This logically leads to a decrease in its credibility and legitimacy as active promoter of democracy.

Examining from various angles how involved actors react to a potential crisis of democracy promotion will boost our knowledge of democracy promotion, democratization, and recent populist developments. Furthermore, it will contribute to the fields of democratization, foreign intervention, and transformation studies.

Three distinct panels will address the issue. The **first panel** is on the **perspective of European international organizations** such as the EU, the OSCE/ODHIR and the Council of Europe. Here, the key question addresses the effects of the decline in democratic standards and the emergence of populist parties in member states and/or the European Parliament/Parliamentary Assemblies on democracy promotion through European international organizations (EU, OSCE, Council of Europe) or the UN.

The **second panel** deals with the **perspective of democracy promoting states**. Here, the key question is what is the effect of decreasing democratic standards and the emergence of populist parties in single states (such as Poland or the US) on their international democracy promotion activities.

The **third panel** is on the **perspective of recipients of democracy promotion**. Here, the key question concerns the effect of declining democratic standards in traditional democracy promoters on the perception and reaction of the recipients of democracy promotion.

Programme

Wednesday, November 13

19:00 *Reception and registration*

 Restaurant "Glück und Verstand"

Thursday, November 14

8:30-9:00 *Arrival & Coffee*

9:00-9:45 Welcome speech, Opening remarks

Panel I:

**Perspective of European international organizations
(EU, OSCE/ODHIR, Council of Europe)**

9:45-10:30 Watering down of democracy-related standards? The OSCE's and the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assemblies in the face of de-democratization and re-autocratization
[Andrea Gawrich \(Justus Liebig University Gießen\)](#)

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 Revisiting the integration model: EU democracy promotion and the authoritarian challenge
[Natasha Wunsch \(Centre d'études européennes, Sciences Po Paris\)](#)
[Antoaneta Dimitrova \(Leiden University\)](#)

Populist parties on power: contesting the EU's external democratization agenda?

[Aron Buzogány \(Free University Berlin\)](#)
[Oriol Costa \(Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona\)](#)

12:30-14:00 *Lunch*

Panel II:

Perspective of democracy promoting states

14:00-15:30 Foreign aid, Trumped. Populist leaders, decline in democracy, and their effects on democracy promotion

Dennis Hammerschmidt (University of Mannheim)

Cosima Meyer (University of Mannheim)

Anne Pintsch (University of Mannheim)

Western donors, democracy promotion, and the threat to the symbolic use of foreign aid

Niheer Dasandi (University of Birmingham)

Jack Corbett (University of Southampton)

15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00-16:45 Policies of closing space and the ability of NGOs engaged in democracy promotion to survive: the case of Poland

Paulina Pospieszna (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)

Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves (Jagiellonian University Kraków)

19:00 *Conference dinner*

Restaurant "Kleiner Rosengarten"

Friday, November 15

Panel III:

Perspective of recipients of democracy promotion

9:00-9:45 Civil society versus democratic decline: exploring Ukraine as a recipient of media assistance

Aleksandra Galus (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)

Kateryna Sokolova (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv)

9:45-10:30 The decline in democracy in the EU countries and its effect on contributions to democracy promotion in Central Asia
Shirin Tumenbaeva (American University Central Asia, Bishkek)

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 Concluding remarks & discussion

12:30-14:00 *Lunch*