

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) and Aberystwyth University have the pleasure of inviting you to a seminar on:

Opportunities and Challenges in Political Democracy Support
Wednesday, 28 November 2012, 13.30-17.00
Danish Institute for International Studies
Main Auditorium
Strandgade 71, ground floor, 1401 Copenhagen K

Background

'Political' democracy support by parties and political foundations has played an important part historically in democracy promotion and continues to be the centre ground of action for many democracy activists. Yet, interesting challenges face these explicitly 'political' democracy supporters today.

On the one hand, concrete challenges in world politics today stretch the capacity of these organizations in new ways. On the other hand, key underlying questions continue to revolve around how political party support work fits with the agendas of key international donors – especially those which perceive 'political' democracy support as potentially partisan or overly political.

What should be the role of explicitly political actors in democracy support today? What opportunities and challenges are these types of actors faced with today? In the context of rising debate over democracy's multiple potential meanings, how conducive are the politically neutral aims and technical management instruments of donors in facilitating the work of party political and political foundation actors? How, and to what extent, can the politics of democracy support be played out today in the professionalized structures of democracy assistance?

To examine the unique contributions but also the complications of political party and foundation work in today's democracy support, this seminar brings together scholars who have reflected on the role of politics in democracy assistance and practitioners who have sought to find effective ways to navigate the complicated waters of politics in assistance work.

Specifically, the seminar explores both the opportunities and the challenges surrounding the question of 'politics' in political democracy support work and asks what the role of political democracy support work should be today.

Speakers

[Christian Friis Bach](#), Danish Minister for Development Cooperation
[Milja Kurki](#), Professor, Aberystwyth University
[Thomas Carothers](#), Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
[Roel von Meijenfeldt](#), Chairperson, European Partnership for Democracy
Andrea Ostheimer, Programme Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Steen Christensen, International Consultant, the Social Democrats
[Bjørn Førde](#), Director, DIPD

Programme

More details about the speakers and the seminar are available on our [website](#).

Practical Information

The seminar will be held in English.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than Tuesday, 27 November 2012 at 12.00 noon.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

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