CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY 10 MAY 2012
Aakja Building, Room 132, University of Iceland
09:30–10:00: Conference Opening
Welcome: Irama Eiríksdóttir, Director, EDDA – Center of Excellence
Valur Ingimundsson, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Iceland
Opening: Ögmundur Jonason, Minister of the Interior, Democracy: A Nation of Pdigmat or Rights?
10:00–12:00 PANEL 1: The Transnational Contours of Justice: Assessments and Conclusions
Chair: Jón Ólafsson, Professor of Philosophy and Provost, Bifrost University
Icelandic Constitution-Making in a Comparative Perspective
Joe Etelä, The Robert Stein Morton Professor of Social Sciences, Columbia University, and Professor Tiu- lia, Collège de France
Constitutional Reform Processes and the Case of Iceland: The Meaning of the Constituent Power of the People
Björn Thorarensen, Professor of Law, University of Iceland, and Pasquale Pasquino, Distinguished Pro- fessor of Law and Politics, New York University, and Senior Researcher, CDRS
Constitutional Reform and Democracy
Salvör Nordal, Director of the Centre for Ethics, University of Iceland, and Chair of the Icelandic Constitu- ent Council
Norwegian Experiences with Democratic Audit: Is it of Any Relevance for Iceland Today?
Yohann Ancante, Researcher, EHESS
12:00–13:15: Lunch
Transitional justice has become a normative vehicle for addressing issues of responsibility and culpability for past injustices and atrocities. Prosecutions, trials, truth commissions, illustrations and purges have been used to deal with a troubled and/or violent past as well as condemnation and redress. This panel addresses whether and how the pursuit of justice and reconciliation can be achieved in a way that the victims are able to forgive the perpetrators and move forward in a long-term peace. The purpose of the panel is to explore various representations of transitional justice and the politics of memory in several different countries—such as South Africa, Spain and Iceland—as a result of political and societal ruptures.
Chair: Guðmundur Halldórsson, Professor of History, University of Iceland
Transitional Justice Genealogy
Ruti Tseitin, Ernst C. Stifel Professor of Comparative Law, New York Law School
Political Accountability and Criminal Proceedings
Bernard Marois, Professor of Political Science, EHESS and New York University
Restorative Justice: Return to Justice, Truth and South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Lucy Allais, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Iceland and Professor of South Korea and the University of the Wit- waterrand
Creating a Usable Past and Future: The Politics of Justice and Memory in Iceland
Valur Ingimundsson, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Iceland
The Spanish Transition: Remembrance or Forgetting in the 21st Century?
Guðmundur Guðmundsson, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Iceland
14:45–16:15: Coffee and Tea
16:15–18:15 PANEL 3: Critical, Analytical, Policy-Driven Research
In the last two decades, experiments in democracy, which aim at using deliberative and participatory methods of public decision making, have brought notable results. Participatory budgeting has shown that even complicated decisions can be made outside of traditional parliamentary or assembly structures, and deliberative polling suggest that, under the right circumstances, discussion and increased knowledge can have a considerable effect on public opinion. This panel explores democratic experiments and the ways in which disapproving trust in traditional political methods can be answered by increasingly relying on differ- ent kinds of crowd-sourcing.
Chair: Salvör Nordal, Director of the Centre for Ethics, University of Iceland, and Chair of the Icelandic Constituent Council
Making Deliberative Democracy Practical: Reflections on Deliberative Polling
James S. Fishkin, Professor of Communication and Political Science, Stanford University
Participatory Research vs. Deception in Randomized Field Experiments
Paolo Spada, Postdoctoral Researcher, Harvard University
Filtering Dreams Together: Reflections on Participatory Budgeting Experiences where a “Learning by Doing Environment” makes the Difference
Giovanni Aloisi, Senior Researcher, Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
12:00–13:15: Lunch
13:15–14:00 PANEL 4: Transitional Justice: Whither Truth and Reconciliation?
It is often argued that a certain truth, at least to some parties, can be political and constitutional, and that it is the responsibility of the government to guarantee that these conditions are met. This panel explores the strengths and shortcomings of delib- erative, participatory and epistemic approaches to democracy.
Chair: Lucy Allais, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Iceland and Professor of the University of the Wit- waterrand
FRIDAY 11 MAY 2012
Aakja Building, Room 132, University of Iceland
09:00–12:00 PANEL 5: Consulting Citizens: Deliberative Ways of Improving Policy- and Decision-Making
In the last few years, an increased awareness of the importance of broadening the prevailing understanding of well-being of populations has gained momentum. It signifies an attempt to move away from the narrow economic focus on GDP and related indicators. The welfare state as an institutional feature of modern societies has also been under strain and subject to revisions for some time, not least due to changes in the political system and economic structure. It is likely to be the growing crisis-related emphasis on various austerity measures, many of which can erode welfare state provisions and resources. Recent scholarship indicates that this restructuring of public expenditure under the rhetoric of austerity is resulting in unacceptably gendered social and economic effects. These developments can then, financial equality and welfare and acknowledge from previous decades. At the same time, the living conditions and risks have changed with the new global environment and other changes, making older institutional structures perhaps outdated.
Chair: Annemari G. Riisblad, Director, Studies Director of the GEST Programme, University of Iceland
In What Way is a Transition? Examining Political Responses to the Financial Crisis Using a Gender Lens
Sylvia Wall, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Lancaster University
Well-being of Nations: Patterns and Explanations
Stefán Ólafsson, Professor of Sociology, University of Iceland
Welfare State Interests and Welfare State Ideologies: Public Attitudes towards Government Role in Providing Services across 26 Countries
Sigurður Ólafsson, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Boston University
The Contours of Social Welfare Transfers, Poverty and Public Opinion
Dave Brady, Associate Professor of Sociology, Duke University
12:00–13:15: Lunch
Social theorists have long been interested in studying the societal circumstances triggering mass pro- tests, revolutions and paradigm changes. Some suggest that widespread subjective deprivation caused by abrupt social changes, including economic crises, often produces such events. Others emphasize that mass mobilization reflects ongoing conflict between social groups or ideologically defined groups and propose focusing on how sudden changes provide opportunities and resources for such groups to mobilize. In the debate, the term civil society has played a key functional role in generalizing social trust among citizens, which is seen as being necessary for civic engagement and vibrant democratic institutions. This panel concentrates on mass protests triggered by the recent global economic crisis, discussing the opportunities of different movements of civil society to act strategically as a counterpart to the old system in processes of societal and political change.
Chair: Sylvia Wall, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Lancaster University
Who Participated in the Mass Protest in Reykjavik in January 2009?
Jón Gunnar Bessard, Professor of Sociology, University of Iceland
Stock and Disillusionment: Why People Participated in the Pots and Pans Revolution
Magnús Sveín Helgason, Ph.D. Student of History, University of Minnesora
The Economic and Political Breakdown in Iceland: The Democratic Consequences of Patrimonizing Politics
Rósa Eiríksdóttir, PhD. Student of Political Science, University of Iceland
16:15–18:15 PANEL 7: Political Participation, Popular Mobilization, and Protest Movements
14:45–16:15: Coffee and Tea
SATURDAY 12 MAY 2012
Aakja Building, Room 132, University of Iceland
10:00–12:00 PANEL 8: National Narratives and National Cultures
Political and narrated identity have become a close relationship over collective identities, social recontextualization and cultural and ethical values. It can also include both the rethinking of social conflicts in light of transnational and multiculture coexistence as well as the entrenchment of the national in the face of external and internal adversity. This panel explores, critically, Icelandic attempts to frame national and cultural narratives in response to the financial crash.
Chair: Philipp Urferino, Director, CEISFRA, Professor, EHESS and Senior Researcher, CNRS
Nothing Ventured… Tales Concerning the Economic Crisis of 2008
Gudrun Eliasson, Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Iceland
Crisis and Transitions of Creativity: (Trans)national Cultural Politics and Labour
Tina Greljarsdóttir, Postdoctoral Researcher, EDDA – Center of Excellence
Vikings to Victims: Naming the Rise and Collapse of a Nation
Guðmundur Halldarsson, Professor of History, University of Iceland
3:00–5:30: Additional programme
*Something in the Air:* Performing the North in a "Post-Colonial"Norden
Kristinn Schrøer, Postdoctoral Researcher, EDDA – Center of Excellence, and Katla Kjartansdóttir, Researcher, EDDA – Center of Excellence
12:00–13:15: Lunch
"Democracy is the Proper Opportunity: Is More Democracy the Proper Response to Crisis?" Participants: Jón Gnarr, Ásleikur Magnússon, Jóhannes L. Sigurðsson, Helene Landemore, Moderator: Jón Ólafsson
Deliberation, Cognitive Diversity, and Democratic Inclusiveness: An Epistemic Argument for the Random Selection of Representatives
Helene Landemore, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Yale University
Constituent Politics: An Impasse?
Jon Ólafsson, Professor of Philosophy and Provost, Bifrost University
From Consultation to Collaboration: A Call for Civic Capacity Building
Ásleikur Magnússon, Senior Vice President, Public Agenda, New York