



Lecture Series

Democracies in Distress

current developments, trends and implications

The first quarter of the 21st century is increasingly featuring signs of democratic disillusionment and decay. Recent experiences in Hungary, Turkey, Thailand, Venezuela, Philippines, Kenya and Egypt draw attention to what the influential and controversial Samuel Huntington foreshadowed as the “third reverse wave” of democratization. Efforts to empower executive functions, rewrite constitutional power arrangements, diminish political freedoms, and pursue extrajudicial

means of governance have been on the rise. Moreover, the resurgent emphasis on counter-terrorism and populist nationalism add new challenges to the consolidation of democratic forms of government. The seminar series “democracies in distress” brings these recent developments to the fore and discusses salient trends and implications. In doing so, it seeks to shed light on the shifting political tides in Europe and the Global South.

- 13 October, 20.00 c.t.: Gordon Crawford (Research Professor, University of Coventry/ UK, former editor of ‘Democratization’):
1015 (KGI) **Threats for democracy. Examples from Africa**
- 14 November, 20.00 c.t.: Barbara Unmüßig (President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin):
1199 (KGI) **Zivilgesellschaft weltweit in Gefahr (Civil society threatened on a global scale. In German)**
- 29 November, 20.00 c.t.: Laurence Whitehead (Senior Research Fellow in Politics, Nuffield College, Oxford University/ UK):
1199 (KGI) **Prospects for democracy: comparative perspectives from the Global South**
- 30 January, 20.00 c.t.: Wolfgang Merkel (Professor for Comparative Politics, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin):
1199 (KGI) **Der Herbst der Demokratie (The autumn of democracy. In German)**