



Conference

Direct Democracy and Minorities

22-24 April 2010

Liechtenstein Institute, Barenden, Liechtenstein

Thursday, 22 April	Arrival in Schaan, Hotel Schaanerhof
Friday, 23 April	Conference in Barenden and Vaduz
Saturday	Conference in Barenden until 13 p.m.

Direct democracy opens up possibilities for direct involvement of the citizenry in political decision-making. By fostering popular participation and enhancing responsiveness, direct democracy seems to be an ideal solution to overcome some of the shortcomings of representative democracy. In recent years both the number of states offering possibilities for direct democratic involvement of the citizens and the use of these instruments have considerably grown. However, direct democracy is not a universal remedy for the problems of (representative) democracy. On the contrary, in a historical perspective direct democracy has been regarded rather sceptically. Critics were particularly afraid of the detrimental effects of the “tyranny of the majority” for minority groups. Indeed, the logics of direct democratic procedures tend to sharpen political conflict during the campaign before the ballot and to restrict political decisions ultimately to simple dichotomous alternatives. Their results clearly denominate winners and losers. In spite of these majoritarian features, the effects of direct democracy on minorities are not clear-cut. Recent studies have shown that its impact depends on several factors. It seems clear that direct democracy brings political decisions closer in line with the majority’s preferences. Its positive or negative effects on the minorities, however, are influenced by political culture, institutional design of the instruments, their frequency of use, and the majority-minority relations in general as well as the specific characteristics of the minorities. Furthermore, direct democracy may also offer opportunities for minorities to check majorities’ decisions (veto) or may even help them to raise their own issues. In order to fully exploit direct democracy’s potential for enhancing the quality of democracy in modern societies, minority-majority relations have to be further clarified.

Our conference aims at enhancing our understanding of the problems of different kinds of minorities (eg. social, political, religious, linguistic, ethnic etc.) in different direct democratic settings and exploring innovative approaches to minority-majority relations. The conference will start with a historical survey on conflict structures that determined the emergence of direct democratic problem solving approaches, and will discuss some illustrative historical examples. In a second step different problems of minority-majority relations will be discussed from a theoretical perspective. The theoretical insights will be deepened and corroborated by a second set of contemporary case studies. Finally, the effects of the emergence of transnational direct democracy for the minorities and further questions will be discussed.

Friday, April 23, 2010

Bendern, Liechtenstein Institute

- 8:15 Bus transfer from hotel to Bendern
8:30 Address of welcome and introduction
Panel 1 (Chair: Wilfried Marxer)
Popular Votes and Minorities – Historical Perspective
8:45 **Theo Schiller**
Conflict patterns and the emergence of direct democracy
Franz Cede
Popular votes in Austria after World War I
Discussion
- 9:45 **Hermann Heussner**
Minorities and direct democracy the USA
Rolf Friedrich Krause
Popular votes and national independence of Montenegro
Discussion
- 10:45 Coffee Break and Snacks
- Panel 2 (Chair: Zoltán Tibor Pállinger)**
Minorities and Direct Democracy – Theoretical Perspective
11:15 **Anna Christmann**
Direct Democracy and the Rule of Law - Assessing a tense relationship
Andi Gross
The integration potential of direct democracy
Discussion
- 12:15 **Jonathan Wheatley**
The disruptive potential of direct democracy in deeply divided societies
Elisabeth Alber
Federalism, minorities, and direct democracy
Discussion
- 13:15 Lunch at Restaurant Löwen
- 14:15 Bus transfer from Bendern to Vaduz

Vaduz, Art Museum and National Archive

- 14:30 Short guided tour at the Liechtenstein Art Museum
Walk to the National Archive
- Panel 3 (Chair: Bruno Kaufmann)**
Minorities and Popular Votes – Case Studies
15:30 **Zoltán Tibor Pállinger**
Prevention of direct democracy in the name of “rule of law”: the case of Hungary
Oleh Protsyk
Popular vote and divergent outcomes of ethnic party institutionalization in Eastern Europe
Discussion
- 16:30 Coffee Break

- 17:00 **Thomas Benedikter**
 Direct democracy and linguistic minorities in Switzerland and South Tyrol - A comparison
Wilfried Marxer
 Minorities and direct democracy in Liechtenstein
Rolf Büchi
 Conflict regulation in Switzerland – the case of canton Jura
- Discussion**
- 18:30 End of first day session
- 19:00 Dinner in Vaduz

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Bendern, Liechtenstein Institute

- 8:15 Bus transfer from hotel to Bendern
- 8:30 **Frank Marcinkowski/André Donk**
 Media coverage of minority affairs in election campaigns and direct democratic campaigns
Deniz Danaci
 Religious minorities and direct democracy
- Discussion**
- Panel 4 (Chair: Theo Schiller)**
Transnational Direct Democracy and additional aspects
- 9:30 **Johannes Pichler**
 European citizens initiative
Kai Oppermann
 The transnational spill over of pledging EU referendums:
 the case of the European Constitution
Bruno Kaufmann
 Superdemocracy – a worldwide approach for the benefit of minorities across the globe
- Discussion**
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:30 **Bill Kissane**
 Popular Sovereignty, European Integration and the Irish Referendum
Klaus Poier
 EU Referendums from an Austrian perspective
Uwe Serdült
 C2D data collection on direct democracy
- Discussion**
- 13:00 End of second day session/End of conference
- Catering lunch at the Liechtenstein Institute
 Transfer to train stations

Speakers

Alber, Elisabeth, Mag., European Academy (EURAC) of Bolzano/Italy, Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism.

Benedikter, Thomas, Social and Political Researcher, Initiative für mehr Demokratie, South Tyrol/Italy.

Büchi, Rolf, Dr., Birmingham/U.K., Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe.

Cede, Franz, Dr., Associate Professor of Diplomacy, Andrassy University Budapest, former Austrian Ambassador in Belgium and to the NATO.

Christmann, Anna, Mag., PhD.-Student, Institute of Political Sciences, University of Zurich.

Danaci, Deniz, lic. phil., PhD.-Student, Institute of Political Sciences, University of Zurich.

Donk, André, M.A., PhD.-Student, Institute of Communication Science, University of Muenster.

Gross, Andi, Member of the Swiss National Parliament, Deputy at the Council of Europe, Strasbourg.

Heussner, Hermann, Prof. Dr., Professor of Public Law and Law of Social Work, Fachhochschule Osnabrück.

Kaufmann, Bruno, Falun/Sweden, President Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe.

Kissane, Bill, Dr., Senior Lecturer in Politics, Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science.

Krause, Rolf Friedrich, Dr. Dr., Associate Professor of Diplomacy, Andrassy University Budapest; German Ministry of Foreign Affairs – former Deputy Director for African Affairs.

Marcinkowski, Frank, Prof. Dr., Institute of Communication Science, University of Muenster.

Marxer, Wilfried, Dr., Senior Research Fellow, Liechtenstein Institute, Lecturer at the University of Liechtenstein.

Oppermann, Kai, Dr., Research Institute of Political Sciences and European Affairs, University of Cologne.

Pállinger, Zoltán Tibor, Dr., Associate Professor of Political Science, Andrassy University, Budapest.

Pichler, Johannes, Prof. Dr., University of Graz and Austrian Research Institute of Legal Policy Salzburg, President of „Europa braucht Initiative e.V.“

Poier, Klaus, Ass. Prof. Dr., University of Graz.

Protsyk, Oleh, Dr., European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), Hamburg.

Schiller, Theo, Prof. Dr., University of Marburg, Forschungsstelle für Bürgerbeteiligung und direkte Demokratie at the University of Marburg.

Serdült, Uwe, Dr., Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (C2D), Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau, University of Zurich.

Wheatley, Jonathan, Dr., Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (C2D), Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau, University of Zurich.