



## V-Dem Visiting Scholar Program Fall 2015

The Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute is hosting several leading scholars on democratization and democracy during fall 2015. Please find below information about the scholars, research, duration of stay and scheduled seminars.

### **Michael Dorsch (7-11 September)**

Assistant Professor of Economics, Founding Faculty of the School of Public Policy, Central European University, Budapest. Michael Dorsch is an applied economist whose research and teaching interests are mainly in public economics and political economics. His current research program investigates the political economy of development, with a particular interest in the economic causes and consequences of political instability, civil conflict, and democratization. Michael's work has been published in interdisciplinary journals such as *Public Choice*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *Economics & Politics*, and *Social Sciences Quarterly*. As a founding faculty member of the School of Public Policy at the Central European University in Budapest, Michael leads the development of the economics component of the MPA curriculum. At the School, he teaches Economic Analysis, Advanced Quantitative Methods, and Financial Crises in Economic and Historical Perspective. Michael holds a PhD in economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Website: [www.dorschmichael.wix.com/academic](http://www.dorschmichael.wix.com/academic)

**Seminar Tuesday 8 September** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: Recessions, inequality, and democratization

### **Kyle Marquardt**

V-Dem Post-Doc. He received his PhD in Political Science from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015. His dissertation, "Language, identity, separatism: Regional grievance and collective action in Eurasia," involved over two years of fieldwork in the region and includes data from elite interviews, an original dataset on language and separatism in Eurasia, and surveys of two Moldovan regions; it was supported by a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award and a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship.

**Seminar Tuesday 22 September** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: Language, ethnicity, and support for separatism: Survey evidence from Russian regions

### **David Altman (September)**

V-Dem Project Manager David Altman, holder of the Torgny Segerstedt Professorship at the University of Gothenburg this year. Professor of Political Science at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. His research and teaching lie in the field of comparative politics with an emphasis on democracy: its quality, its institutions, and its innovations. He is particularly interested in mechanisms of direct democracy and his current research extends his previous work on the subject [*Direct Democracy Worldwide* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)] by looking at the policy consequences of citizen participation through popular initiatives and referendums.

**Seminar Tuesday 29 September** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: Assessing the Impact of Electoral Quora and Democracy on the Electoral Success of Popular Votes

**Nara Pavao (5-9 October)**

Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Vanderbilt University. Nara's academic interests focus primarily on corruption, public opinion, and voting behavior—more specifically on their intersection with issues of democratic governance and electoral accountability. Nara received her Ph.D. in Political Science/Comparative Politics Notre Dame University and a M.A. from the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

**Seminar Tuesday 6 October** 12.00-13.15. Room: B210

Title: The Failures of Electoral Accountability for Corruption: Brazil and Beyond

**Richard Asante (19-23 October)**

Senior Research Fellow; Research Coordinator, History & Politics Section; Faculty Coordinator, UGRC; Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. Asante holds a doctorate degree in Political Science from the University of Ghana under the Harvard University, Boston, USA/University of Ghana Split-PhD Programme. His research interests span the political economy of African development, associational life and democratisation, and institutional development in new democracies. In addition to teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in African politics, he has published on ethnicity and public sector governance, democratisation, and decentralisation. In 2010, he served as a Visiting Afrobarometer Fellow at the Democracy in Africa Research Unit (DARU) in the University of Cape Town, (UCT) South Africa where he studied advanced political science and Afrobarometer survey research. Dr. Asante is currently the Regional Manager of Anglo West Africa at V-Dem.

**Seminar Tuesday 20 October** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: Workable or Unworkable? An Assessment of Proposals to Appoint Ministers from Outside Parliament, Ghana.

**Carl-Henrik Knutsen (2-6 November)**

Professor of Political Science at the University of Oslo, Editor-in-Chief of Scandinavian Political Studies and Project Manager in V-Dem. His research interests include the economic effects of political institutions and the causes of regime change and stability, and his publications include articles in American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science and Comparative Political Studies.

Website: <http://folk.uio.no/carlhk/>

**Seminar Tuesday 3 November** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: Autocratic Elections: Stabilizing Tool or Force for Change?

**Jeff Staton (1-29 November)**

Jeff teaches and does research on comparative politics. He specializes in the study of judicial politics, especially in Latin America. He received my Ph.D. in political science from Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to coming to Emory, he was Assistant Professor of Political Science at Florida State University and a post-doctoral fellow at the New York University School of Law and at the Center for U.S. - Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego. He is particularly interested in understanding how judges manage doctrinal and political challenges that complicate their efforts to bind political leaders to their international and domestic legal obligations. His current projects concern compliance with constitutional orders in domestic and international politics, the measurement of judicial independence cross-nationally and historically, and judicial decision-making on the world's constitutional courts.

Website: <http://polisci.emory.edu/faculty/jkstato/index.html>

**Seminar Tuesday 17 November** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: The Democratic Virtues of Non-Compliance

**Carlos Gervasoni (30 Oct – 4 Dec)**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Studies-Universidad Torcuato Di Tella.

His recent research focuses on the determinants of subnational democracy in Argentina and on developing new indices of subnational regimes that allow for comparisons across countries. He is a Regional Manager for the Varieties of Democracy project. His articles have appeared in Comparative Political Studies, Democratization, Journal of Democracy en Español, Journal of Politics in Latin America and World Politics. He is the co-editor of *¿Década Ganada? Evaluando el Legado del Kirchnerismo*.

**Seminar Tuesday 1 December** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: "Varieties of Subnational Democracy: Measuring the Dimensions of Political Regimes through an Expert Survey in the Argentine Provinces and Mexican States."

**Anna Lührmann**

V-Dem Post-Doc. Received her PhD in Social Sciences from Humboldt University (Berlin) in summer 2015. Her dissertation examines causes and effects of United Nation's electoral assistance. From 2002- 2009 she was the youngest ever Member of the German National Parliament (Bundestag). After her tenure as MP, Anna lived in Sudan for two years, where she acquired a MSc. degree in Gender and Peace Studies at Ahfad University. She also contributed to various governance capacity development activities in Sudan and throughout the MENA region (Libya, Egypt, Jordan). On behalf of UNDP's Democratic Governance Group, she drafted a handbook on youth political participation. She also holds a M.A. degree in "Research Training in Social Sciences" from Humboldt University (Berlin) and a B.A. in political sciences from Fern Universität Hagen (Germany).

**Seminar Tuesday 15 December** 12.00-13.15. Room: Stora Skansen

Title: Electoral Manipulation and Regime Legitimacy.

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*V-Dem: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualization and measurement of democracy. It is co-hosted by the University of Gothenburg and University of Notre Dame. With four Principal Investigators, two Project Coordinators, fifteen Project Managers (PMs), 30+ Regional Managers, 164 Country Coordinators, Research Assistants, and 2,600 Country Experts, the V-Dem project is one of the largest ever social science research-oriented data collection programs.*

All Lunch Seminars are taking place at the Political Science Department, University of Gothenburg.  
Address: Sprängkullsgatan 19, 40530, Gothenburg.

For any questions, please contact Natalia Stepanova at [natalia.stepanova@v-dem.net](mailto:natalia.stepanova@v-dem.net)

**Website:** <https://www.v-dem.net>