

# The Case for Democracy Week

A Week of Webinars

March 22-25, 2021

*Preliminary*

## Webinar Program

Organized by the



with support from European Commission/INTPA

**Key Contacts:**

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## **The Case for Democracy and A Global Summit**

The world is currently experiencing a wave of autocratization characterized by increasing executive power, erosion of democratic norms, and a general tendency toward less freedom. One-third of the world's population – 2.6 billion people – now lives in countries undergoing autocratization. Even so, for the President and members of Congress to incite a mob to storm the US capitol on 6 January 2021 is unparalleled. Confronted with a [world-wide surge in 'autocratization'](#) and repeated attacks on democracy, world leaders have rejuvenated the idea of a global coalition of democracies. For instance, new US President Joe Biden announced his intention to convene an [international Democracy Summit](#). Boris Johnson has proposed a [D\(emocracy\)10](#) bringing together the G7 states with Australia, India and South Korea. German foreign minister Heiko Maas recently suggested a [Marshall Plan for Democracy](#), and Sweden launched the 'Drive for Democracy' as a new foreign policy priority.

The EU need to take the lead on protection and (re-)building democracy at home and abroad. In response to the international initiatives listed above, the EU must provide an evidence-based case for democracy: a successful narrative and strategy to defend democracy is predicated on hard evidence on in what ways democracy is better for its peoples than autocracy, beyond the intrinsic values it provides.

### **Objectives**

The 'Case for Democracy' Week features five 1.5-hour webinars (one webinar each day) bringing together academics and policymakers in a dialogue based on state-of-the art scientific findings on the dividends of democracy for a series of development outcomes: 1) economic development, 2) human development and infrastructures, 3) human development and health, 4) security, and (5) combating climate change.

## Webinar Program

Monday 22 March 2021, 15:00-16:30 CET

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**Opening:** Case for Democracy Week

**Introductory Note:** Dr. Staffan I. Lindberg, Founding Director of the V-Dem Institute & Professor of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.

**Welcome Address:** (TBC: *Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, EC*)

### Webinar #1: Economic Development (SDG 1, 8, and 10)

**Chair:** Dr. Vanessa Boese, Research Fellow, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg

#### Presenters:

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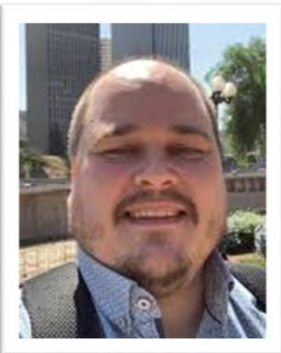
Dr. James Robinson, Reverend Dr. Richard L. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies, and Institute Director of the [Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts](#), Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago.

- ‘Does Democracy Cause Growth?’ (SDG 8)



Dr. Rohini Pande, Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and Director of the [Economic Growth Center](#), Yale University.

- ‘Can democracy work for the poor?’ (SDG 10)



Dr. Carl Henrik Knutsen, Professor of Political Science, University of Oslo, Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo ([PRIO](#)), and co-Principal Investigator, V-Dem Institute.

- ‘The Business Case for Democracy’ (SDG 1)

Tuesday 23 March 2021, 14:00-15:30 CET

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**Webinar #2A: Human Development - Enabling Hard and Social Infrastructures (SDG 3, 5, and 16)**

**Chair:** Dr. Staffan I. Lindberg, Founding Director of the V-Dem Institute & Professor, of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.

**Presenters**

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Dr. Mansoob Murshed, Professor of the Economics of Peace and Conflict at the [International Institute of Social Studies \(ISS\)](#), Erasmus University, and Professor at the Faculty of Business & Law, Coventry University.

- 'Democratic Institutions, Fiscal Capacity, and Social Welfare Outcomes in Developing Countries'. (SDG 3)



Dr. Julia Leininger, Head of the Research Program 'Transformation of Political (Dis) Order: Institutions, Values and Peace', [German Development Institute](#).

- 'Democratization, Autocratization and Social Cohesion' (SDG 16)



Dr. Anna Zagrebina, Postdoctoral Researcher at Center for International Studies and Research, [CERIUM](#), Montreal University.

- 'Gender Equality: Does Being a Democracy Matter?' (SDG 5)

**Tuesday 23 March 2021, 16:00-17:30 CET**

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**Webinar #2B: Human Development – Health (SDG 3)**

**Chair:** Dr. Staffan I. Lindberg, Founding Director of the V-Dem Institute & Professor, of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.

**Presenters:**

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Dr. Thomas J. Bollyky, Director of the [Global Health Program](#) at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown University.

- ‘Autocratisation and universal health coverage’ (SDG 3)



Dr. Joseph Dieleman, Adjunct Associate Professor of Global Health, and Associate Professor of Health Metrics Sciences at the [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation](#), University of Washington.

- ‘The relationships between democratic experience, adult health, and cause-specific mortality’. (SDG 3)



Dr. Yi-ting Wang, Assistant Professor of Political Science, [National Cheng Kung University](#), and Research Associate at the V-Dem Institute.

- ‘Does Democracy Enhance Health?’ (SDG 3)

Wednesday 24 March 2021, 14:00-15:30 CET

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**Webinar #3: Human, Domestic, and International Security (SDG 5 and 16)**

**Chair:** Dr. Vanessa Boese, Research Fellow, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg

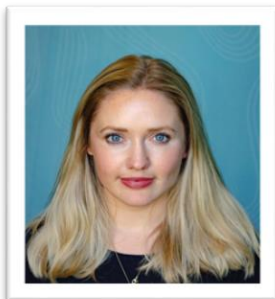
**Presenters:**

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Dr. Scott Gates, Professor of Political Science, University of Oslo, and Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo ([PRIO](#)).

- 'Democracy and Peaceful Societies: Civil Peace, and Human Security' (SDG 16)



Dr. Sirianne Dahlum, Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo ([PRIO](#)).

- 'Democracy, female political empowerment, and civil conflict' (SDG 5 and 16)



Dr. Monika Nalepa, Associate Professor of Political Science, [University of Chicago](#).

- 'Accountability by Numbers: Democracy and Transitional Justice' (SDG 16)

Thursday 25 March 2021, 15:30-17:00 CET

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**Webinar #4: Combating Climate Change (SDG 13)**

**Chair:** Dr. Staffan I. Lindberg, Founding Director of the V-Dem Institute & Professor of Political Science, University of Gothenburg.

**Presenters:**

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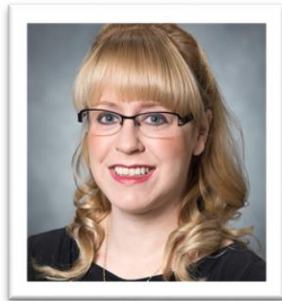
Dr. Thomas Bernauer, Professor of Political Science, ETH Zurich, and Director of the [Institute of Science, Technology and Policy \(ISTP\)](#).

- 'What The Science Says: Democracy's Dividends for Environmental Protection' (SDG 13)



Dr. Sverker Jaegers, Professor of Political Science, and Director of the Centre for Collective Action Research ([CeCAR](#)), University of Gothenburg.

- 'Democracy, Trust and Environmental Protection' (SDG 13)



Dr. Amanda Murdie, Thomas P. and M. Jean Lauth Public Affairs Professor, and Professor of International Affairs in the [School of Public and International Affairs](#), University of Georgia.

- 'Democracy and Making Environmental NGOs Work' (SDG 13)



Dr. Håkon Sælen, Senior Researcher at [CICERO Center for Climate Research](#), University of Oslo.

- 'Democracy and International Climate Commitments' (SDG 13)