

The Case for Democracy Week

A Week of Webinars

March 22-25, 2021

Webinar Program

Organized by the



Financed by the European Union



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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

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 (recorded): *Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission*

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

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

Presenters:



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)

Watch Webinar #1 here: <https://youtu.be/ARBBiMgJT7A>

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

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



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)

Watch Webinar #2A here: <https://youtu.be/BGXfhZJs9kY>

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

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:



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

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

Watch Webinar #2B here: <https://youtu.be/fStpmyk-ltY>

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

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

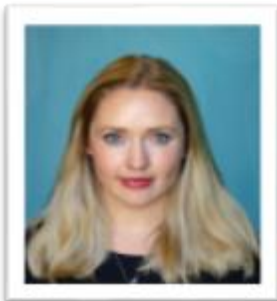
Chair: Dr. Vanessa Boese, Research Fellow, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg

Presenters:



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, Associate Professor, University of Oslo, and 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)

Watch Webinar #3 here: <https://youtu.be/OrLksPECsxx>

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

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:



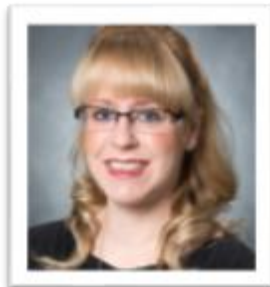
Dr. Thomas Bernauer, Professor of Political Science, ETH Zurich, and Director of the [Institute of Science, Technology and Policy \(ISTP\)](#).

- '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)

Watch Webinar #4 here: <https://youtu.be/Mcew0ahV09E>