



THE RISE AND FALL OF DEMOCRATIZATION: ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE IN POST-CONFLICT AND TRANSITION COUNTRIES

Master in Solidarity and Sustainable Transition
Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law

Course information

Master Year 2 18 HOURS

Fall Semester 5 ECTS

Seminar

Professor: Cécile DUBERNET, PhD, Bristol University (United Kingdom)

Course description

Electoral observation and assistance have been used by international organizations for 30 years to participate in the reform of dictatorial regimes and in the re-building of war-torn political institutions. They are an essential part of democratic transitions and formal peace-building, they contribute to the legitimation of emerging political institutions and are deemed necessary to 'exit strategies' after interventions in failed states. With 30 years of election assistance practice in the post- cold-war era, the international community is now taking stock of its experience in the field and new debates emerge. Over the last 15 years, the International Community has sought to determine good practices for the challenges ahead.

This course will retrace and analyze pitfalls alongside the paths leading from the battlefield or from authoritarian regimes to meaningful ballot boxes, and beyond. The benefits and limits of electoral assistance and more largely of democratization will be studied worldwide. Although theoretical frameworks will be discussed, particular emphasis will be laid on case studies and implementation issues (timing, electoral design, media and campaign monitoring, supervision, fraud, electoral monitoring bodies, etc.).

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1 Understand thoroughly current electoral assistance issues/debates.
- 2 Present and discuss these issues in English.
- 3 Use online resources efficiently to research new cases and keep up-to-date with changes.

Bibliography

INTERNATIONAL IDEA (2017), *The global state of Democracy*, Report URL:

<https://www.idea.int/gsod-2017/>

INTERNATIONAL IDEA (2014), *Electoral Management Design, a revised handbook*, URL: <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/electoral-management-design-revised-edition?lang=en>

COLLIER, Paul (2010) *Wars, Guns and Votes, Democracy in Dangerous Places* (London: Vintage)

UNDP (2009) *Elections and Conflict Prevention, A Guide to Analysis, Planning and analysis*