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Public Transport

The Institute of Korean Studies is close to the subway station "Dahlem-Dor", subway line U3, direction "Krumme Lanke". For further information on public transport in Berlin, please refer to Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG): www.bvq.de

Conference Venue

Room L 115, Seminarzentrum FU Berlin Silberlaube Otto-von-Simson-Str. 26 14195 Berlin





Civil Society within Democratic Systems: Localization and Functions

June 25th - 26th, 2010 Seminarzentrum, L 115 FU Berlin

Second International Conference hosted by
Institute of Korean Studies and Korea Democracy Foundation





Civil Society within Democratic Systems: Localization and Functions

What is and is not civil society? What kind of components does civil society encompass? Are civil society organizations distinctive new phenomena, or do they merely reflect a repackaged form of more familiar organizations? To what extent is the boundary of civil society demarcated within the democratic political system? What kind of role can or should civil society organizations play within the democratic system? Are there any particular political principles-community, citizenship, social structure, the rulers and the ruled, authority, justice, and change, among others-for which civil society organizations can specifically exert influences? Should such entities as transnational advocacy networks be understood to be part of any conventional democratic system at all? If not, do we need a whole new array of political imagination beyond the current understanding of democratic politics and the state? What kind of interests do civil society organizations represent? What interactions or modes of action should civil society organizations adopt in order to optimize their stated objective? What kinds of institutions are necessary in order for civil society organizations to function in a way that promotes the good of the whole society?

No social scientific concept seems to be more complicated and controversial than civil society, and no other political concept has undergone more reformulations and reconfigurations. This was as true in ancient times when civil society was conceptualized as societas civilis or politike koinonia as it is now in the contemporary world. The resurgence of a civil society discourse in the last decades in general, and the acceleration of civil society's visibility after the transformation of the Eastern European system in particular, have made the scientific investigation of the questions enumerated above a task as urgent and topical as ever. This conference is convened with this background in mind. Following the inaugurating conference in 2009, this year's second gathering aims to deepen the debate where it left off last year and, at the same time, to break new ground by considering civil society within the democratic system and, above all, mapping out the "politicity" of civil society from a new theoretical perspective.

Program June 25th, 2010

13:00 Greetings & Opening Remarks
Keun-Sik Jung (KDF-Research Institute)
Eun-Jeung Lee (Freie Universität Berlin)

13:30 Keynote speech
Sei-Ung Ham (President, Korea Democracy Foundation)

14:30-16:30 Panel 1: The Political and Civil Society
Moderator: Hyo-Je Cho (Freie Universität Berlin)

Keun-Sik Jung (Seoul National University/ KDF)
Trajectory and complexity of the civil society formation in Korea

Dorothée de Nève (Hagen University, Germany)
Post-democratic (re-)localisation of the civil society

16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

7:00-19:00 Panel 2: Comparative Case Studies of Eastern Europe and Korea Moderator: Hannes Mosler (Freie Universität Berlin)

Inga Beinke (Halle University, Germany)
Organizational spectrum of civil society in the Czech Republic.
Traditions and Perspectives

Jin-wook Shin (JoongAng University, Korea)
Ideological Struggles in Civil Society and Democratic Consolidation:
Contending Visions of a 'Good Society' in Korean Civil Society, 2000-2006

Eva Maria Hinterhuber (Viadrina University, Frankfurt O., Germany) Civil Society in Russia

19:00 Reception

Program June 26th, 2010

9:00-11:30 Panel 3: Comparative Case Studies of Eastern Europe and Korea Moderator: Werner Pfennig (Freie Universität Berlin)

Ilpyo Hong (The Hankyoreh Economic Research Institute, Korea) Civil Society and Policymaking after 'democratization' in Korea: Organizational change from 'NGO' to 'Think Tank'?

Claudia Matthes (Humboldt University, Germany) Civil Society in Poland - still a vital political power 20 years after the system change?

Dieter Segert (University Vienna, Austria)
Weak civil societies - either a legacy of state socialism or as produced by the transition stress? East Central Europe in comparison

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-14:00 Concluding Discussions
Moderator: Samuel Lee (Ecopeace Asia, Korea)
All participants