

## **RESEARCH CONFERENCE – CALL FOR PAPERS!!**

**AUSTRIAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION – WORKING GROUP ON DEMOCRACY**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**“IMMIGRATION, INCORPORATION, AND DEMOCRACY”**

**VIENNA, NOVEMBER 14-15, 2013**

The Working Group on the Future of Austrian Democracy (*ARGE Zukunft der Demokratie*) of the Austrian Research Association (*ÖFG*) is issuing a call for papers for its annual research conference to be held November 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Vienna, Austria.

The Working Group invites conceptually innovative papers devoted to questions of immigration, incorporation, and democracy. Preference will be given to work focused in particular on the themes and thematic profiles listed below.

**The conference has two main goals:** First, it seeks to analyze how Austrian and European immigration societies and their institutions have responded to the settlement of immigrants, and how their incorporation has been facilitated and negotiated. It wants to ascertain which modes of democratic innovations have emerged. Second, the research conference focuses on how immigrants and immigrant communities in Europe/Austria have adapted to the institutional structures of the receiving societies and political systems. It also wants to determine how entrenched local and national arrangements have resisted such adaptations on the one hand and how, as a result, immigrant groups have sought to develop alternative forms of involvement or engaged in transnational activities.

The conference is interdisciplinary in orientation and welcomes work from all social sciences and the field of legal studies. Whereas theoretical work is considered important, the Working Group is especially interested in sound analytical and empirical scholarship and the application of qualitative or quantitative methodology commensurate with, and appropriate for the discipline from which the work originates. Case study designs are welcome but it should be understood that the goal of the conference is to draw comparative conclusions and develop a general understanding of the matters at hand. Thus, the ability to generalize from findings will be as much a criteria for inviting presentations as is the innovative character of the paper or project. Although the working group focuses primarily on Austrian democracy, this research conference and its themes are not Austria-centered and may draw on a wide variety of international experiences. However, the inclusion of Austria as a reference case in the analysis is certainly welcome.

**Conference Details:** The two-day research conference will be held in the vicinity of the University of Vienna. The goal is to invite a small number of researchers of all levels (including advanced graduate/doctoral students) to participate in a two-day workshop style event in which all participants will be present for the duration of the program and engage in discussion. The papers will be presented and critiqued by qualified peers, after which the discussion is opened to the remaining conference participants and a small general audience. The discussions are intended to be focused and expert-oriented with the goal of developing working papers to be published in a working paper series at the association website and a further book publication. An important benefit of this format is both the depth of the expertise present and the interdisciplinary nature of the event. The language of the conference and the papers will be in English. Paper proposals must be submitted by the date posted below. Selected presenters will have their travel expenses paid and will be provided with accommodations.

## Conference Topics:

**Topic 1: Democratic Deficits / Institutional Change & Innovation:** Papers will examine the institutional adaptation to the challenges of inclusion and representation of an increasingly diverse population. Such works will want to focus on, or compare models ranging from “full inclusion” to “differential inclusion” (stratified rights-approach) in order to assess the political, societal, and/or social consequences of their implementation. As this research conference is ultimately centered on questions of democracy, the issue of the democratic quality of institutional designs and arrangements should be an important consideration. Themes covered under this topic will typically entail questions of voting rights, procedures of naturalization and regularization, integration policies, and political approaches to immigration (from a European national and regional perspective) including issues such as deficits in accountability (e.g., Frontex), a lack of burden-sharing, and beg-thy-neighbor solutions. A further interest lies in the question of what kind of new bodies, arrangements, designs, and policies have been created to handle issues of immigration. Papers devoted to ways of empirically assessing and measuring how political systems perform and how countries rank comparatively are especially welcome.

### Guiding research questions:

- **What institutional adaptations have taken place to accommodate growing cultural diversity?**
- **What democratic deficits exist with respect to inclusion and representation of immigrant communities?**
- **How do institutional designs and democratic arrangements compare cross-nationally in this respect?**
- **How can institutional innovations be adapted trans-nationally?**
- **What are innovative ways of measuring the success of Institutional Change & Innovation?**

**Topic 2: Citizenship / Fundamental Rights / Immigrants’ Representation & Participation:** The papers under this topic will be devoted to studying questions of fundamental rights and coercive state power when dealing with issues of immigration. Papers may ask what forms of de-coupling of political rights from national citizenship have occurred and what innovative modes of deliberation, representation, and political communication have been created. This will entail a better understanding of how to strengthen the precarious membership of specific migratory groups in institutions (of power) and of finding remedies that are adequate to the differential conditions under which different immigrant groups operate, especially when considering undocumented individuals. The issue of representation in receiving countries will also include the examination of migrant associations and their relationship to political parties and civil organizations. Different forms of democratic organization, such as direct democracies (e.g., Switzerland) and democracies in countries with long immigration traditions are also of interest.

### Guiding research questions:

- **What are ways in which meaningful participation of immigrants in democratic processes may be strengthened?**
- **What forms of transnational political participation exist or may be relevant?**
- **What is the relationship between immigrant communities and political parties and civic organizations?**
- **How can the representation of precarious immigrant groups in institutions of power be strengthened?**
- **What legal protections are necessary/appropriate for a diverse immigrant population and how may fundamental rights be strengthened vis-à-vis the state?**

**Topic 3: Democratic Innovations / Immigrants’ Advocacy:** This panel will be devoted to studying democratic innovations as well as anti-discrimination initiatives and activities, with the goal of discerning effective ways of giving voice to disadvantaged or discriminated migratory groups. In this panel the aspect of change, innovation, departure from past practices beyond purely institutional adaptations in ways to make societies more inclusive should be the focus. Learning from cross-national experiences and best practices will be a critical dimension as will be the question of what works and what does not. Papers devoted to ways of empirically assessing the effectiveness of democratic innovation and advocacy are welcome.

**Guiding research questions:**

- *What have been especially innovative/creative forms of solutions to the questions of deliberation, representation, and political communication?*
- *What are currently best practice models and acknowledged leaders in achieving significant successes in democratic inclusion and incorporation of immigrant constituents?*
- *What new institutional designs have emerged to accommodate the interests of immigrants individually or as groups? What forms of anti-discrimination activity exist and how effective have they been in achieving their objectives?*

**Topic 4: Perception/Categorization/Mobility/Diversity:** *Papers and presentations will focus on the relationship between the perception of diverse populations and immigrant groups and their representation in public discourse, law, and democratic representation. This panel will be devoted especially to sociological, anthropological, linguistic-cultural as well as historical and transdisciplinary modes of analysis. An important aspect in this regard concerns questions of intergenerational mobility in immigrant communities.*

**Guiding research questions:**

- *In what ways does perception and categorization of immigrant groups shape the public discourse?*
- *How does this impinge on institutional designs and legal rules as well as democratic representation?*
- *What relevance does intergenerational mobility within the immigrant community have for democracy, especially when viewed from the perspective of social/education/political mobility?*

**Topic 5: Immigration and Resources:** *Papers and presentations will examine the questions of resources and contribution of immigration to society, especially in less familiar contexts such as in rural areas. Here the focus lies on assessing on the one hand the economic costs and benefits of immigration (and immigration policies such as “green card for select groups of knowledge workers”) but also the issue of adding conceptual and qualitative innovation due to diverse modes of thinking and new practices.*

**Guiding research questions:**

- *What economic and social contributions are made by immigrants, what resources are required to absorb growing immigrant populations, and how does this question impinge on the state of democracy?*
- *How do intellectual, cultural, procedural resources and abilities of immigrants affect established ideas and practices and what consequences are there for the future of local democracy?*

**Submission Details:** As the organizing institution, the Austrian Research Association, is inter-disciplinary, the call is open to all disciplines. Desirable work should be empirical or analytical in nature. The conference is especially interested in novel ideas and innovative work. Individual submissions are not required to follow an inter-disciplinary approach. **TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT OF NOT MORE THAN A SINGLE PAGE (OR 700 WORDS) ALONG WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR CURRENT WORK AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW.**

**DEADLINE: JULY 26, 2013**

**Organizing Institution:** The Working Group on the Future of Austrian Democracy of the Austrian Research Association is a national interdisciplinary and inter-institutional panel of scholars organized under the auspices of the Austrian Research Association and led by Reinhard Heinisch, Professor of Political Science at the University of Salzburg. This conference in particular represents a collaboration with Sieglinde Rosenberger, Professor of Political Science at the University of Vienna and with respect to Topics 4 and 5 with Barbara Herzog-Punzenberger, Head of Research in Multilinguality, Interculturality, and Mobility with the Federal Institute of Research in Education (BIFIE).

The group's specific objective is to assess the state of democracy in Austria and to investigate important challenges that impinge on its future development. Specifically, the group intends to draw attention to significant questions and problems affecting the state of Austrian democracy in at least five critical dimensions, one of which concerns the relationship between immigration and democracy. Drawing on the diverse expertise of the scholars involved in this project, the goal is to engage in scholarly research, contribute to a public discourse on democracy, and stimulate further specialized research.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSION BY THE DEADLINE OF **JULY 26, 2013** TO:

**Attn: "IMMIGRATION, INCORPORATION, AND DEMOCRACY 2013"**

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For more on the **Austrian Research Association**, please see: [www.oefg.at](http://www.oefg.at)

For more on the **Working Group**, please see: <http://www.oefg.at/text/arbeitsgem.htm#demokratie>

**(Proposals submitted after the deadline may not be considered)**