

Conference Announcement/Call for Papers

**Exporting Regimes?
Interests and Strategies of Powerful States in the Post-Communist Space**

June 13-14, 2014 (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany)

This conference takes up the question of how powerful states affect the political developments of post-communist states. More precisely, the conference focuses on how influential democracies and authoritarian states effect the developments of political regimes in seemingly less powerful states. In doing so, it aims to combine two fairly distinct literatures: the older literature on the diffusion and export of democracy (e.g., Burnell, Carothers, McFaul, and Wright) and the newer literature on the external dimensions of authoritarian rule (e.g., Bader et al., Burnell, Levitsky and Way, and Vanderhill). In doing so, we try to address several questions: First, is it the case that authoritarian regimes export authoritarianism in the same way many democracies seek to export democracy? If so, how do democracies and authoritarian states pursue their goals? Are there any significant differences that can be traced back to the type of the regime of the powerful states? And how do smaller states react to the overtures of powerful democracies and dictatorships? Are they simply pawns in the great games or do they have agency in their own regime construction? While these questions could be answered by looking at various countries around the world, for methodological and empirical reasons, the conference focuses on the post-communist space and more precisely on the Soviet successor states of the South Caucasus. We therefore seek to bring together experts of the postcommunist area who have an interest in comparative work and at least some knowledge of the South Caucasus.

Eligibility:

Junior scholars (PhD students or recent PhD graduates, 2009 or later) and senior scholars of political science and international relations with appropriate area expertise and an interest in addressing the above mentioned research questions. The conference brings together both junior and senior scholars. It also aims at comprehensive geographical representation, inviting scholars worldwide, but especially those from the South Caucasus specifically and post-communist countries generally.

Discussion papers must address the themes outlined above and must address politics in one or a combination of the following: the Caucasus, Central Asia, Belarus and Ukraine, the Baltic States, and the Balkans. Papers that include at least one case study of the South Caucasus will be given preference. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to present and discuss their papers in thematic panels. We will also have structured working groups whereby conference participants can work toward adapting their research into chapters/papers for publication.

Submission Instructions:

All interested scholars are requested to submit an abstract (no more than 300 words) of their paper along with a short biographic statement and a CV (maximum 2 pages). Submissions must be sent electronically no later than March 03, 2014 to christoph.stefes@ucdenver.edu **and** Julie.George@qc.cuny.edu with the following email subject: ASCN Exporting Regimes 2014. All documents should be in English and need to be merged into a single PDF file. The result of the selection process will be announced by the end of March. Selected candidates will be required to submit full papers by May 19, 2014.

Venue, Accommodation and Transport:

The conference will take place June 12-14, 2014 at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany. Attendees are expected to arrive on the 12th in the morning. Hotel reservations are made for June 12-15, 2014. The ASCN programme will cover expenses for travel, accommodation, and most meals. Opportunities for co-financing will arise should the travel costs in individual cases exceed the average expenses per participant attending the conference. The selected participants will be informed about the programme, the specific conference panels and the format of the paper to submit, as well as organizational details in due time.

The conference is sponsored by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN). ASCN is a programme aimed at promoting the social sciences and humanities in the South Caucasus (primarily Georgia and Armenia). Its different activities foster the emergence of a new generation of talented scholars. Promising junior researchers receive support through research projects, capacity-building trainings and scholarships. The programme emphasizes the advancement of individuals who, thanks to their ASCN experience, become better integrated in international academic networks. The ASCN programme is coordinated and operated by the Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe (IICEE) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). It is initiated and supported by Gebert Rűf Stiftung. The conference is hosted by the Hertie School of Governance.

Timeline

Application deadline:	March 3, 2014 (via e-mail)
Selection of Abstracts:	End of March
Submission of Papers:	May 19, 2014
Papers Online on Conference Website:	May 25, 2014
Conference:	12-14 June 2014

Further questions:

Please contact Christoph Stefes (christoph.stefes@ucdenver.edu) or Julie George (Julie.George@qc.cuny.edu)