There seems to be a need for a conceptual and empirical shift in studies of democratisation and democracy promotion. The current academic literature and political agenda of democracy promotion are mainly dominated by research on and practices that are Western-centric, with, by and large, a tendency to promote liberal democracy and free market economy.

Investigating the potential for a shift in the way democratisation and democracy promotion are studied and practised, this symposium constitutes an opportunity to investigate the potential for a new research agenda called ‘democracy reception’. ‘Democracy reception’ is interested in how recipients of democracy promotion perceive and understand democracy.

Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University, Wales
9:15-9:30 Welcome and introduction: Dr Jeff Bridoux

9:30-11:00 Panel 1: Philosophy of science and democracy reception

How do we know what recipients of democracy promotion know about democracy? Questions subset 1: How can we conceptualise ‘democracy reception’? Which epistemological commitments, ontological choices, and methods can help structuring democracy reception as research agenda? Which disciplines and/or subfields in social sciences and humanities can contribute to conceptualising democracy reception?

Participants:
Prof Andrew Linklater (Aberystwyth University)
Prof Milja Kurki (Aberystwyth University)
Prof Jonathan Joseph (University of Sheffield)
Dr David Roberts (Loughborough University)
Dr Jeff Bridoux (Aberystwyth University)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Panel 2: Democracy recipients and meanings of democracy

What do recipients of democracy promotion know about democracy? Questions subset 2: Who are recipients of democracy promotion? How is democracy received, perceived, and dealt with by recipients of democracy promotion? Should democracy reception also engage with non-recipients of democracy promotion? Is the meaning of democracy as promoted altered by recipients/non-recipients of democracy promotion? How do recipients/non-recipients of democracy promotion generate knowledge about democracy?

Participants:
Dr Nicholas Long (Anthropology/democratisation-South East Asia/LSE)
Prof Amor Boubakri (University of Sousse, Tunisia – currently advisor in Afghanistan for The International Foundation of Electoral Systems)
Hela Boujneh (University of Sousse, Tunisia, PhD candidate, coordinator of the association of defense of human Rights, Tunisia)
Nadim Zaazaa (University of Exeter/AU Beirut, PhD candidate, former FCO adviser)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Panel 3: Practitioners and practices of democracy promotion. The view from the field.

Do democracy promoters know what democracy recipients/non-recipients know about democracy? Questions subset 3: Do democracy promoters attempt to generate knowledge about meanings attributed to democracy by recipients/non-recipients of democracy promotion? If so, what methods are used to generate such knowledge? How important are meanings attributed by democracy recipients/non-recipients for the design and implementation of democracy promotions policies and practices?

Participants:
Prof Gordon Crawford (University of Leeds)
Dr Jonas Wolff (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt)
Dr Nicolas Lemay-Hebert (University of Birmingham)

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:30 Panel 4: Where to? Democracy promotion, democracy reception and competing political futures.

Prioritisation of research agenda for the future. All.

19.30 Dinner at Ultracomida.

Contact Persons:

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