

Global Hubs Salon Series

Salon on “Democratic Challenges and Change”

Thursday, February 17, 2022 | 8:15am – 9:30am EST

Facilitators

[Wendy W. Wolford](#), Cornell University

[Rachel Beatty Riedl](#), Cornell University

Hosts

[Kenneth M. Roberts](#), Cornell University

[Ana Elena Fierro Ferrández](#), Tecnológico de Monterrey

[Ransford E. V. Gyampo](#), University of Ghana

[Fouad Makki](#), Cornell University

[Sudarshan Ramaswamy](#), O.P. Jindal Global University

[Paolo Moncagatta](#), Universidad San Francisco de Quito

[Vitit Muntarbhorn](#), Chulalongkorn University

[Gili Vidan](#), Cornell University

[Sishuwa Sishuwa](#), University of Zambia

[Mark Pennington](#), King’s College London

[Gilles Verniers](#), Ashoka University

[Mabel Berezin](#), Cornell University

[Mabel Berezin](#)

Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences; Director, Institute for European Studies, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University

Mabel Berezin writes on challenges to democratic cohesion and solidarity in Europe and the United States. She is the author of *Illiberal Politics in Neoliberal Times: Culture, Security, and Populism in the New Europe* (Cambridge, 2009) and *Making the Fascist Self: The Political Culture of Inter-war Italy* (Cornell, 1997). She is working on a manuscript, *The End of Security and the Rise of Populism* (under contract at Oxford University Press), that examines the current global resurgence of nationalism and the populist challenge to democratic practice.

[Ana Elena Fierro Ferráez](#)

Director of International Development, School of Social Sciences and Government, Tecnológico de Monterrey

Ana Elena Fierro Ferráez has been a professor of constitutional law, administrative law, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for more than 20 years at institutions such as ITESM, CIDE, ITAM, Marista University, and the University Anahuac. Her lines of research are transparency, accountability, and corruption, as well as alternative disputes resolutions (ADR). Recent publications include *The Legal Concept of Accountability, First Edition* (Tirant lo Blanch, 2021); *Management of Conflicts and ADR, Second Edition* (CIDE); and *Responsibility of Public Servants, from Punishment to Trust* (FCE). She is co-author of the manual *Administrative Justice and Corruption in the Public and Private Sector* (USAID, CIDE, RRC, 2020), *Guide of Reparations for Violations of Human Rights Related: International Duty and Practices Jurisdictional* (TFJA, Open Society Justice Initiative, CIDE, 2019); and the article “Challenges in the Implementation of the Corruption Reform, Accountability, and Justice” (CIDE, World Justice Project, 2020). Ferráez was Senior Official of the Yucatan Congress in the LVI legislature (2001-2004) and worked as a technical secretary of the Federal Judicial Council (1995-2000).

[Ransford E. V. Gyampo](#)

Associate Professor of Political Science; Director, Centre for European Studies, University of Ghana

Ransford Edward Van Gyampo holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Ghana and Tufts University, and has 20 years of teaching and research experience. His research interest lies in the areas of democratic development, youth empowerment and development, governance and leadership, electoral studies, and natural resource management. He has been a visiting scholar in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of South Florida, and is currently a visiting professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Bristol. Gyampo has more than 200 research works to his credit within his areas of research interest, which have been published in internationally refereed journals. He is passionate about issues of democracy, governance, and electoral politics in Ghana and Africa, and he comments extensively in these areas with a view to shaping how

things are done in a manner that can improve Ghana's governance landscape and help the maturation of Ghana's democratization process.

Fouad Makki

Associate Professor, Department of Global Development; Director, Polson Institute for Global Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Founding Board Member, Institute for Comparative Modernities, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University

Trained in the comparative study of society and history at Cornell University and Binghamton University, Fouad Makki works across the disciplinary boundaries of the social sciences and teaches courses on international development and social theory. His writings explore questions of empire and nationalism, the postwar development initiative, and the historical sociology of modernity. His most recent work is an edited book on the *Dialectics of Modernity* (forthcoming 2022).

Paolo Moncagatta

Associate Professor and Researcher; Coordinator, Program of Political Science, Universidad San Francisco de Quito

Paolo Moncagatta teaches comparative politics, public opinion, and quantitative research methods at Universidad San Francisco de Quito, where he also coordinates the program of political science. His research focuses on the study of citizen attitudes towards democracy, democratization, ideology (and ideological polarization), and electoral behavior. He obtained his PhD in political and social sciences from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona. He also collaborates as a Research Fellow at the Research and Expertise Centre for Survey Methodology (RECSM) of Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Vitit Muntarbhorn

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University

Vitit Muntarbhorn is a graduate of Oxford University (MA, BCL) and Université Libre de Bruxelles (Licence Spéciale en Droit Européen). He is also a Barrister at Law (the Middle Temple, London). He teaches international law, human rights, and related subjects. He has held a number of UN posts, including: UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography; UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; UN Independent Expert on Protection against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. He was the Chairperson of the UN appointed Commission of Inquiry on the Ivory Coast (2011) and a member of the UN appointed Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. In 2021, he was appointed as UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia by the UN Human Rights Council. He has published widely on International Law and Human Rights. His latest book is *Challenges of International Law in the Asian Region* (Springer, 2021). He is the recipient of various awards, including the 2004 UNESCO Human Rights Education Prize. He was bestowed a Knighthood (KBE) in 2018.

[Mark Pennington](#)

Professor of Political Economy and Public Policy, Department of Political Economy, School of Politics and Economics; Director, Centre for the Study of Governance and Society, King's College London

Mark Pennington holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He works at the intersection of philosophy, politics, and economics with a particular focus on exploring problems of limited knowledge or bounded rationality and their relationship to “ideal” and “non-ideal” theorizing in economics and political theory. This approach was exemplified in his book *Robust Political Economy: Classical Liberalism and the Future of Public Policy* (Edward Elgar, 2011). Pennington has written widely on environmental governance, social capital, and the relationship between markets and democratic citizenship. More recently he has been working on a major project exploring the “Ideal of Self Governance,” as this was understood by Elinor and Vincent Ostrom. He is currently writing a new book, entitled *Foucault and Liberal Political Economy*, which examines the implications of the “power-knowledge” concept for democratic and economic decision-making. This book is part of a new project on the political economy of knowledge and ignorance. Prior to joining King's College London, Pennington taught for 12 years in the School of Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary, University of London.

[Sudarshan Ramaswamy](#)

Professor and Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University

As a Rhodes scholar, Sudarshan Ramaswamy joined Balliol College, University of Oxford. He was elected to a research fellowship at St. John's College, University of Cambridge, where he studied judicial review of economic legislation by the Supreme Court of India. He has previously worked in the Ford Foundation's South Asia Office in New Delhi, UNDP India, UNDP Jakarta, the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, and in the UNDP Asia-Pacific Centre in Bangkok. He has an impressive track record of publications reflecting his interdisciplinary research, teaching, and policy experience in development programs, human development, law, governance, institutions, and policy.

[Rachel Beatty Riedl](#)

Director and John S. Knight Professor of International Studies, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies; Professor, Department of Government, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University

Rachel Beatty Riedl's research interests include institutional development in new democracies, local governance and decentralization, and authoritarian regime legacies in Africa. Her newest book—*From Pews to Politics: Religious Sermons and Political Participation in Africa*, coauthored with Gwyneth McClendon—was published in September 2019. *Authoritarian Origins of Democratic Party Systems in Africa* (2014), her previous book, won the African Politics Best Book award. Riedl also cohosts the Ufahamu Africa podcast about life and politics on the African continent. Most recently, she was a fellow at the Nantes Institute for Advanced Study and a Fulbright scholar. Previously, she was director of the

Program of African Studies and an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Northwestern University.

Kenneth M. Roberts

Richard J. Schwartz Professor, Department of Government, Cornell University

Kenneth M. Roberts received his PhD from Stanford University, with a specialization in comparative and Latin American politics. His research focuses on democracy and its discontents, including popular movements and the politics of inequality. His publications include, most recently, the co-edited *Democratic Resilience: Can the United States Withstand Rising Polarization?* (Cambridge University Press); *Changing Course in Latin America: Party Systems in the Neoliberal Era* (Cambridge University Press); *Deepening Democracy? The Modern Left and Social Movements in Chile and Peru* (Stanford University Press); and the co-edited volume *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left* (Johns Hopkins University Press). He has been a Fulbright scholar at the Universidad Carlos III-Instituto Juan March in Madrid, Spain, and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Santiago, Chile. He has also been a visiting fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the Centre on Social Movement Studies at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, Italy, the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University, and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He has served as the director of Cornell's Latin American and Caribbean Studies program; the director of Cornell's Institute for the Social Sciences; and as Senior Associate Dean for the Social Sciences in Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences.

Sishuwa Sishuwa

Lecturer, Department of History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zambia

Sishuwa Sishuwa's scholarship locates current political developments in a historical context, showing that the roots of contemporary democratic politics in Africa lie in the early post-colonial and even late-colonial periods. He has published widely on nationalism, identity politics, democracy, civil society, elections, political leadership and historical biography, focusing primarily on the old question of structure and agency. Sishuwa's current work examines the often-surprising pillars of democratic resilience in Zambia through a close and historically informed analysis of the country's 2021 general election. His research has had noticeable impact beyond academia. In addition to being regularly consulted by policy makers, donors, and non-governmental organizations in Zambia, Kenya, and South Africa, Sishuwa has also engaged with broader publics through a steady stream of highly regarded writings and interviews on Zambian politics in the print, online, and broadcast media, including international news channels such as eNCA, the BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera. Sishuwa obtained his DPhil in History from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. He is currently a postdoctoral research fellow on political parties in East and Southern Africa at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

[Gilles Verniers](#)

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Co-Director, Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University

Gilles Verniers' research interests include electoral and party politics in India, the mechanisms of representation and participation in Indian politics, Indian regional politics, democratization in South Asia, the sociology of elected representatives and other public elites, controversies and problems in India's democracy, identity politics, and the intersections between gender and politics in India. As Co-Director of the Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Verniers leads a number of research projects and data building efforts on contemporary Indian politics. Before joining Ashoka, he served as Sciences Po Paris' Representative in India, in charge of student and faculty mobility and academic cooperation with various Indian partners.

[Gili Vidan](#)

Assistant Professor, Department of Information Science, Bowers College of Computing and Information Science, Cornell University

Gili Vidan is a historian of information technology and Science and Technology Studies (STS) researcher. Her work examines how trust is established both in digital technologies and through digital mediation and how notions of authenticity, knowability, and good governance are implicated in the making of new digital objects. Her book project, "Technologies of Trust," traces technical attempts to solve the problems of trust and authentication in late 20th- and early 21st-century US.

[Wendy W. Wolford](#)

Vice Provost for International Affairs; Robert A. and Ruth E. Polson Professor, Department of Global Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University

As vice provost, Wendy Wolford is responsible for strengthening the university's global connections and worldwide interdisciplinary initiatives. Her research focuses on international development, land use and distribution, social mobilization, and agrarian societies with a regional concentration in Latin America—particularly Brazil. For 20 years, she has worked with one of the most important grassroots social movements in Latin American history: the *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra* (MST), or the Movement of Rural Landless Workers. Part of Cornell's faculty since 2010, Wolford served as the faculty director of economic development at the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, where she co-led CARE-Cornell and Oxfam-Cornell collaborations.