

October 2007

## Dear Yearbook Friend

I would like to update you on recent events, achievements, and future plans for the Global Civil Society Yearbook Project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or if you have any ideas about future collaborations/activities.

All the best

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## THE YEARBOOK

As you may be aware, the Yearbook is now in its seventh year of publication: *Global Civil Society 2007/8* was successfully launched with a panel debate at LSE in October, followed by the opening in the Atrium of 'Voices of Global Civil Society: an Exhibition of Political Cartoons, Comic Strips and Graphic Novels'. This exhibition, highlighting the work of 41 artists from 22 countries, is linked to *Global Civil Society 2007/8* – themed on communicative power and democracy.

Themes are a recent development of the Yearbook, intended to focus research, allow for creative partnerships and aid our readers. *Global Civil Society 2007/8* explores how and to what effect a broad spectrum of civil society actors use various tools of communication to further their aims, creating spaces for debate and enabling citizens to influence decisions that affect their lives. True to the ethos of the Yearbook project, this edition does not encompass only 'progressive' global civil society on the left but those on the right of the political spectrum including the US National Rifle Association, and even extremists who use the Internet to promote their interpretation of *jihad*. This edition of the Yearbook also examines the effectiveness of democracy promotion efforts by various donors and NGOs in transition countries and considers how best to reinvigorate democracy in established democratic contexts.

We are now working on *Global Civil Society 2008/9*, which will focus on global civil society's framings, actions and impacts on poverty reduction. Following the efficacy of last year's five strong editor-in-chief-ship, this year we have a similarly impressive line-up of scholars: Mary Kaldor, Marlies Glasius, Helmut Anheier, Hakan Seckinelgin and Jan Aart Scholte.

## EVENTS

CSGG's Global Civil Society Events Programme started well with the Yearbook launch at LSE and will be followed by:

- **LSE Panel Debate, 21 November: Frivolous entertainment or potent tool of communication? The role of cartoons and graphic novels in a global age**  
In an interconnected world cartoons represent an increasingly significant political phenomenon. But their importance in the study of global civil society is easily overlooked. To what extent do cartoons influence people's political priorities? What happens in the space between artistic intention and audience interpretation? To what extent can cartooning challenge power holders, particularly in illiberal regimes? Speakers include Steve Bell, cartoonist, Anita O'Brien, curator of the Cartoon Museum in London, and Bryan Talbot, graphic novelist and author of *The Tale of One Bad Rat*.

**Venue: New Theatre, LSE, 6.30-8pm.**

- **LSE Panel Debate, 22 November: Can Democracy be bought? Democracy Promotion after 1989**

This event will explore the success of democracy promotion efforts around the world and the impact and implications of foreign support on local processes of democratisation. Speakers include Dr Armine Ishkanian, lecturer at the Centre for Civil Society, Department of Social Policy, LSE, and Iain King, who worked for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, 2000-2003, and is co-author of *Peace at Any Price: How the World Failed Kosovo*. The chair is Professor Mary Kaldor.

**Venue: Hong Kong Theatre, 6.30-8pm.**

- **LSE Exhibition: Voices of Global Civil Society: an Exhibition of Political Cartoons, Comic Strips and Graphic Novels** will be on public view in the Atrium, Old Building until 29 November 2007. Opening times are 9-6pm Mon-Fri and 10-5pm Saturday. Your comments are invited on the exhibition message board.

- **Cairo Yearbook Launch, 8-9 December 2007: Arabic edition of the Yearbook**

The first Arabic edition of the Global Civil Society Yearbook will be launched in Cairo, followed by a seminar to discuss the second edition with scholars and practitioners from the Middle East. This initiative is the inspiration of Dr Heba Raouf Ezzat, of Cairo University's Center for Political Research and Studies. The first Arabic edition of the Yearbook combines translations of chapters from the series with new commentaries by Middle Eastern scholars.

**Venue: The Shepherd Hotel, Cairo.**

- **LSE Book Launch, 16 January 2008: *The International Politics of HIV/AIDS: global disease, local pain* by Hakan Seckinelgin.** This is the first book to offer an intelligent and critical analysis of the global governance of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It interrogates the role of this international system and provides a comparative regional analysis looking at the global debate from a holistic perspective. Dr Seckinelgin addresses a range of key issues, including: the emergence of a global disease; its history and background; international governance; and medicalisation.

**Venue: Waterstones' Bookshop, Houghton Street, 5.30pm.**

- **LSE Lecture, 18 February 2008: Civil Society and Accountable Global Governance: Enlarging Democracy or Confirming Hegemony?**

Professor Jan Aart Scholte, Centennial Professor, CSGG, LSE and Co-director of the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, Warwick University, examines whether, as is often supposed, civil society activism is an answer to shortfalls of democratic accountability in global governance. Drawing on a comparative study of 13 institutions, it is argued that some gains have been made, but they have tended disproportionately to serve those countries and social circles that already hold the greatest power in global politics.

**Venue: New Theatre, 6.30-8pm.**

- **LSE Lecture, date TBC 2008: On Civility**

The notion of civility is frequently evoked in writings about civil society and cosmopolitanism yet rarely assessed in a systematic way conceptually, and even less frequently measured empirically. Why has it been largely overlooked? What does civility mean for today's societies? How can it be measured, and what are some of the resulting patterns and trends? Are we becoming more or less 'civil' and why? These issues will be explored by Professor Helmut Anheier, Sociology Chair, Heidelberg University, Professor of Public Policy, UCLA and Centennial Professor at CSGG.

- **LSE Panel Discussion, 6 March 2008: Global Civil Society and Illiberal Regimes**

Recent events in Burma reflect the growth of spaces for dissent and other autonomous activity in illiberal regimes as a result of globalisation. This is a key focus for Mary Kaldor

and Denisa Kostovicova in their innovative chapter for *Global Civil Society 2007/8*, which considers the spaces and activities of civil society actors in a range of illiberal regimes including Iran, Burma, North Korea and China. They argue that globalisation is leading to 'involuntary pluralisation' – the result of global political, economic and cultural/media forces that undermines the state's authority and ability to exercise control. Professor Kaldor, Dr Kostovicova and Hosam El Sökkari, Head of the BBC Arabic Service, will be among the speakers on the panel.

**Venue: Hong Kong Theatre, 6.30-8pm.**

- **Yearbook Authors' Meeting, date TBC May 2008: Global Civil Society and Poverty Reduction**

This annual meeting allows for in-depth discussion of each chapter and enables authors – as well as other participants such as CSGG visiting fellows and PhD students – to shape the publication.

**Venue: LSE.**

In addition to the above, CSGG organises a Tuesday Lunchtime Seminar Series each Autumn and Spring term, information about which can be found at

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/global/eventslunchtime2006.htm>

Beyond LSE, we have several events scheduled in 2008 including:

- **India Yearbook Launch, January 2008: Global Civil Society 2007/8**  
Prior to a workshop at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, a panel of speakers will discuss the latest Global Civil Society Yearbook.
- **LSE-TISS Workshop, 11-12 January 2008: Global Civil Society and Sexuality**  
This collaborative workshop with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences will focus on global civil society's engagement with sexuality in its work on HIV/AIDS and human rights. The main goal is to identify and elaborate the key parameters central to effective interventions on issues of sexuality and HIV/AIDS. By bringing together participants from civil society, donor organisations and academia, this workshop seeks to encourage consideration of the many perspectives and challenges faced by such actors, to provide an opportunity for reflection and exchange among participants, and inform the academic and public debate on issues of global civil society and sexuality. Findings from this workshop will lay the foundations for an edited volume on the topic and feature in *Global Civil Society 2009/10*.  
**Venue: TISS, Mumbai.**
- **ISA Panel Discussion, 29 March 2008: Global Civil Society: Discursive Power Struggles**  
The panel will bring together IR specialists, political theorists, sociologists and anthropologists who have in different ways examined the concept and/or the practices of 'global civil society', sometimes largely sympathetically and sometimes very critically. The common ground of this panel is to consider global civil society as an arena where different political understandings of global social problems are generated, which shape policies by a range of global actors. The panel intends to analyse, through different methodological approaches, the functioning of different discourses within global civil society in their relations with intended beneficiaries as well as with global power-holders. Speakers include Sabine Selchow, Hakan Seckinelgin and Marlies Glasius of LSE, Dawn Wiest of University of Memphis, George Thomas and Jeff Juris of Arizona State University, and Helmut Anheier of Heidelberg University. The chair is Mark Juergensmeyer of University of California Santa Barbara.  
**Venue: ISA 2008, San Francisco, 10.30-12.15am.**
- **ISA Panel Discussion, 29 March 2008: Frivolous entertainment or potent tool of communication? The role of cartoons and graphic novels in a global age**  
This innovative panel brings together academics and cartoonists – alongside the Voices of Global Civil Society Exhibition - to discuss the significance and impact of such graphic art.

Speakers include Richard Ostrom, Professor of Political Science at California State University, Holli Semetko, Professor of Political Science, Office of International Affairs & The Claus M. Halle Institute for Global Learning, Emory University, Keith Knight, musician, social activist and cartoonist, Frank Möller, Tampere Peace Research Institute, University of Tampere, and Liza Donnelly, staff cartoonist, *The New Yorker*, and faculty member, Vassar College. The chair is Hakan Seckinelgin, LSE.

**Venue: ISA 2008, San Francisco, 1.45-3.30pm.**

- **ISA Exhibition, 26-29 March 2008: Voices of Global Civil Society: an exhibition of political cartoons, comic strips and graphic novels** will be on public view for the duration of the ISA conference.
- **LSE-TISS Workshop, April 2008: Global Civil Society and Poverty Reduction**  
Linked to *Global Civil Society 2008/9*, this collaborative workshop will bring together civil society practitioners and scholars to analyse and debate hypotheses arising from Yearbook' authors research. It will also provide a neutral space for exchange and reflection among diverse practitioners, policy makers and scholars focused on tackling poverty. The involvement of non-academic participants is central to the Yearbook ethos and we are committed to enabling their voices in the publication. Connections forged through this workshop – and other events in 2008 - will facilitate the eventual dissemination of the key research findings and policy outcomes to a broad audience. This is the second collaborative workshop organised with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and supported by the Tata Institute.  
**Venue: TISS, Mumbai.**

## NEW RESEARCH

### **Global Civil Society and Sexuality – a collaborative project with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai**

The existence of a spectrum of sexualities that are conceived of and expressed variously in different cultures has been documented in many parts of the world. In the last ten years, sexual identities have been made more visible, both in local communities and on the international stage, by human rights campaigns and HIV/AIDS strategies. Civil society advocacy campaigns and policies on sexuality, and support for such activity, has been increasing around the world. The relationship between the expanding visibility of policy actors in this field and their impact is unclear and under-researched. At the same time, in countries as diverse as India, the UK, Cameroon, Iran, Egypt, Nigeria, Russia, and Turkey there has been an increase in violence against people because of their sexuality. Furthermore, according to UNAIDS, 'currently globally fewer than one in twenty men who have sex with men have access to the HIV prevention and care services they need' (UNAIDS 2006: 110). It is clear that a global public sphere is emerging through the activities of civil society organisations and activists. It is important to analyse whether this space allows all voices to be heard, or whether global discourses on sexualities that have underwritten some of these policies function as filters for our understanding.

In the area of sexuality, India offers important lessons for global civil society. The existence of multiple and overlapping cultures, religions and systems of social stratification shape people's sexualities in complex ways that require careful unpicking. Moreover, while alive to the sensitivities and challenges this enquiry presents, academics at TISS are open to collaboration; additionally, the country's vibrant civil society is willing to engage in dialogue and research that could lead to new approaches. A collaborative workshop with TISS will focus on these and other issues arising from global civil society's engagement with the debate around HIV/AIDS and human rights. Among the questions posed will be the following:

- Do civil society policies on HIV/AIDS and human rights campaigns result in greater access to resources and strengthen the rights of people with marginal sexualities?

- Do people become more publicly visible as a result of policies based on a LGBT framework?
- What is the impact of this public visibility for people?
- What happens to marginal sexualities that are not targeted by HIV/AIDS or human rights policies in these contexts?

**Lead researcher: Hakan Seckinelgin**

**Interactions in Global Civil Society: the effects of international NGOs and networks on the opportunities and vulnerabilities of local actors**

This project will examine an important - but as yet under-researched - aspect of global civil society: how contacts between local actors in global civil society and INGOs and networks affect the former in their everyday contexts, possibly providing them with new opportunities, but also possibly making them more vulnerable. In turn, this project will examine the ways in which local actors influence international NGOs and networks. It will do so by looking at two case studies: activism relating to the International Criminal Court and activism relating to sexuality rights. The overall aim of the proposed research is threefold: to reveal how local actors utilise and are influenced by multiple strategies and discourses; to explore, through the case studies, the conditions under which opportunities or vulnerabilities are created for local actors; and to provide a more nuanced understanding of the interplay between global civil society actors in different contexts than that generally available within existing studies. While the research can be seen as pure basic research, generating theoretical implications for existing perspectives on global civil society, the findings will have practical relevance by contributing to the understanding of how local actors are affected by and have responded to their global connections.

**Lead researchers: Marlies Glasius and Hakan Seckinelgin**

In addition to the above:

**Armine Ishkanian and Sabine Selchow** are developing an interdisciplinary project – involving cultural studies, political science and development studies – to investigate the role and power of celebrities in global civil society, in particular, their activities and impact on poverty reduction.

**Fiona Holland** is exploring the possibility of an photographer's residency at LSE that would examine poverty in the global North through an exhibition of original works at the School. Complementing *Global Civil Society 2008/9*, this initiative would consider poverty as a process, affecting North and South, and encourage reflections on the implications of the continued existence of poverty for us all.

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