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Workshop

Constitutional Democracy

of the project „Foundations of the Indo-European Strategic Partnership“
in the framework of the Indo-German partnership (DIP/IGP)

7th – 8th December 2017

at Burkardushaus (Am Bruderhof 1, 97070 Würzburg)

Outline

The workshop „Constitutional Democracy“ on 7th and 8th December 2017 is part of an ongoing research project on Constitutional democracies in a comparative perspective undertaken by Dr. Michael Becker of Julius Maximilian University (JMU), Würzburg and Dr. Anupama Roy of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), in the project „Foundations of the Indo-European Strategic Partnership“, funded by the UGC and DAAD a part of the Indo-German partnership in Higher Education programme.

The inaugural workshop in Würzburg attempts to bring together some of the key themes which have provided the normative frameworks for constitutional democracies. It hopes thereby to study the past and present of constitutional democracies focusing on some salient themes around which debates have accumulated. These debates concern themselves with questions of constituent element of constitutional democracies, which may be addressed normatively as well as the forms in which they unfold and endure.

The workshop in Würzburg on 7th and 8th December would attempt to delineate the frameworks within which constitutionalism in the Indian and German traditions may be understood. Both traditions may be seen as having antecedents, which mark a trajectory towards democratization, compelling us to ask questions about constitution making in post war/postcolonial societies. How do we understand constitutionalism and the idea of the transformative in the specific contexts of India and Germany? What are the Euro-American normative frameworks and their specific forms in German and Indian constitutional traditions? Indeed, as Upendra Baxi would remind us, the constituent moment in India, was a moment of interlocution between the past and the future, which generated overlapping visions of a future society. Freedom, liberty and equality were the organising principles of a new society, and free and equal citizenship became the repository of an identity embodying an enduring rupture from the past. The constitutional promise and vision involved the emphatic constitution of the collective political subject – ‘we the people’ - as the source of authority of the constitution. The durability of the constitution depended on the spread of constitutional morality, which was a precondition for the setting up of a democratic society and polity in which both the government and the citizens agreed to live by constitutional values which embodied norms of pluralism and freedom, basic rights, and respect for difference.



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Programme

Thursday, 7th December 2017

12.00 – 13.00 Arrival and registration of participants at Burkardushaus

13.00 Lunch

14.15 Welcome remarks by Anupama Roy and Michael Becker

14.30 – 16.00 **First Session: Constitutionalism (chair: Anupama Roy)**

Introduction: Constitutionalism in the West

Valerian Rodrigues: India's Preferential Regime and its constitutionalism

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.30: **Second Session: Democracy (chair: Krishnaswamy Dara)**

Oliver Hidalgo: The Distinctiveness of Indian Secularism or India's Secular Democracy as a Paradigm for Religious Accommodation?

Janaki Srinivasan: Constitutionalism and the Development Vs Democracy Debate

19.00 Dinner at Burkardushaus

Friday, 8th December 2017

8.00 – 9.00 Breakfast

9.00 – 11.00 **Third Session: Nationalism (chair: Valerian Rodrigues)**

Michael Becker: Western Nationalism revisited

Krishnaswamy Dara: Minority critique of Mainstream Hindu/congress nationalism in late colonial India

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.30 **Fourth Session: Religion and secularism (chair: Michael Becker)**

Mirjam Künkler: Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde's notion of the state's open neutrality towards religion and his views on the socio-cultural preconditions of constitutionalism

Amir Ali: Finding space for religion in the polity: public, private or in-between?

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.30 **Fifth Session: Political Culture and Civil Society (Chair: Matthias Gsänger)**

Christoph Mohamad-Klotzbach: Political Culture in Germany: A Comparative Perspective

Ujjwal Singh / Anupama Roy: Political Culture, Democracy and Citizenship in India

16.30 – 17.15 Last Coffee and Concluding remarks

List of Participants

Amir Ali, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Michael Becker, Associate Professor, Institute for Political Science and Sociology, Würzburg University

Krishnaswamy Dara, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Matthias Gsänger, Dr., Fellow of the Institute for Political Science and Sociology, Würzburg University

Oliver Hidalgo, Associate Professor, Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Universität Regensburg

Christoph Mohamad-Klotzbach, Fellow of the Institute for Political Science and Sociology, Würzburg University

Mirjam Künkler, Professor, Lichtenberg-Kolleg, Universität Göttingen

Valerian Rodrigues, Professor, Ambedkar University, New Delhi

Anupama Roy, Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences-II, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Ujjwal Singh, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, New Delhi

Janaki Srinivasan, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh

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GEFÖRDERT VOM

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