

Call for Papers – **extended deadline!**

MAGAART Conference on

STABILITY, DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS

Kathmandu, Nepal, 6 -7 December 2016

In spite of very different historical trajectories and geopolitical locations, Nepal in South Asia and Uganda and Kenya in East Africa may be said to share a recent history of armed conflict and political transformation. In the aftermath of the height of violence, many issues that were part of conflict or arose as its consequence remain unsettled and disputed, resulting in an often uneasy manoeuvring between fragile rights of individuals and communities and the structures and strictures of the state machinery. Arising out of collaboration between universities in these countries and a consortium of Danish universities that focused thematically around the broad themes of stability, democracy and right – not to define them, but to explore them through contextualised and comparative approaches – the MAGAART project has supported research training and networking since 2014. As the project draws to a close, we invite researchers from the six involved universities to participate in a conference in Nepal in December 2016 to explore, in a comparative perspective, the following themes:

- **Education:** What is the impact of various types of educational structures and strategies on development of democracy, and the role of different types of pedagogy and their capacity to stimulate or suppress critical thinking in different cultural contexts? What does it mean to democratize education at different levels – is it only about access or as much about content? What role does internationalization play for democratization, if any – and what do we mean by it?
- **Gender:** How are gender relations influenced by ongoing or changing discourses of power/development/social inclusion and democratization at different levels of society, from household level, over community – and kinship structures to the state level? How are violent political conflict and its aftermath gendered, and what are the implications of this gendering? What does equal rights for all genders mean, and what is the relationship between rights and sexuality in a comparative perspective?

- **Migration:** What is the relationship between large-scale migration, the economic configuration of society, and the acquisition or denial of basic rights, disasters and migration and its consequence in democracy and national building? What is the impact of returning home in the aftermath of armed conflict, and what are the implications for those who volunteered or were forced to be part of the armed conflict when returning?
- **Citizenship:** How are discussions of human rights translated into new political identities, and how are citizenship and rights in practice linked to social dimensions such as place of origin versus place of residence, social habitus, economic status or ethnicity? What constitutes, across the different countries, relevant types of citizenship – e.g. political, social, bio-logical, etc.
- **Securitization of development:** What are the implications in the three countries of the securitization of development, where military engagement is directly linked to development issues as defined by the so-called donor community worldwide? What are the implications for bilateral relations, for development projects and for development agencies' involvement in long-term projects that do not fit into donors' definition of own strategic interests? etc.

Conference deadlines

All paper contributors must submit an abstract of max. 300 words by email no later than **2nd September 2016** to the organizing committee at magaartconference@gmail.com. Participation is only possible with paper. The organizer can provide local hospitality and accommodation during the days of the seminar for participants whose paper has been accepted by the committee. PhD students from Nepal, Kenya and Uganda, who are grant holders under BSU-I, their supervisors, and academic staff from the six MAGAART partner universities who have been active in MAGAART or BSU-I can apply for a travel grant to cover direct transport costs (most economical route/class). This should be indicated on the abstract. Interested researchers, faculties of other universities and researchers of different research institutions can participate in the conference on their own cost.

Publication

The project intends to publish an anthology and/or a special issue of a peer-reviewed international journal on the basis of the papers. Acceptance of any paper for the conference does not, however, imply automatic acceptance for any publication ensuing from the conference.

About MAGAART

MAGAART is a collaborative project funded by DANIDA for capacity building within research, communication, dissemination and networking in the research themes related to stability, democracy and rights.

This call for papers is especially targeting the researchers, faculties, PhD supervisors and PhD-students of the collaborative partner universities – Aarhus, Roskilde, Alborg University in Denmark, Maseno University Kenya, Gulu University Uganda and Tribhuvan University.

Organizing Committee

Lekhnath Sharma, Tribhuvan University (TU) (Chair)

Florence Indede, Maseno University (MSU)

Charles N. Okumu, Gulu University (GU)

Jens Seeberg, Aarhus University (AU)

Inger Lassen, Aalborg University (AAU)

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