Uppsala Forum Workshop on Participation in Local Politics and Governance in Developing Countries

Date: September 22nd, 09.15 – 15.00 (TBC)
Venue: Uppsala University (TBA)
Organizer: The Department of Government at Uppsala University
in cooperation with Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace and Justice

Enhanced participation in local politics and governance is often seen as both an end and a mean of human development and empowerment in poor countries of the global south. It has been the focus of numerous development programs and policies, and has also been thoroughly examined in a wide body of academic research, though many questions still remain unanswered, not least about the preconditions for successful and effective participation, and how it may be institutionalised to remain a durable form of political engagement, driven on by ordinary citizens.

To mark the visit of two Uppsala Forum-funded Visiting Scholars – Forrest Fleischman and Claudia Rodriguez-Solorzano, both from the University of Minnesota – we will organise a full-day workshop focusing on the theme of local-level participation in a developing country context. Our guests will share their experience and expertise in studying participation in the field of natural resource governance, but the topic speaks to a wider audience studying participation in contexts such as grassroots-budgeting, political participation and social movements. The workshop will benefit scholars focusing on developing countries broadly, and South Asia and Central America in particular. Those interested in the theories and practice of public participation in comparative perspectives may also be appealed by the workshop.

We invite interested scholars to participate in the workshop and present their own research, if it falls under the above broader theme. Please write marcus.wangel@statsvet.uu.se if you are interested. We are looking to have five to six presentations throughout the day and an engaging discussion throughout. Both senior and junior scholars are invited, as are master students in Development Studies.

More information will be distributed as we move closer to the date.
Welcome!

Marcus Wangel

Doctoral Candidate, Department of Government

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Forrest Fleischman is assistant professor at the University of Minnesota and holds a PhD in Public Policy from Indiana University (2012) where he worked under the guidance of Nobel Laureate Elinor Ostrom. His research focuses on environment & natural resource policy and politics, institutional analysis and participation in natural resource governance. He has wide experience of conducting field research in South Asia, Mexico and the US. He has published in high-ranking international journals and is a leading figure in contemporary research on forest policy and governance in the global south.

Claudia Rodriguez-Solorzano is also assistant professor at the University of Minnesota. She holds a PhD in Natural Resource and Environmental Studies from the University of Michigan (2011). Her research focus and expertise lies at the interface of conservation and climate change policy and the complex linkage to human livelihoods, participation and decentralised governance. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Mexico and Guatemala and published on this topic.