



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter

FY 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup

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DEMOCRACY, RIGHTS, & GOVERNANCE WORKGROUP

The SID-W Democracy, Rights, and Governance Workgroup is a group of individuals who are actively engaged in the ongoing evolution and development of human rights and democracy associated with international development, including the role of civil society. With events ranging from strengthening health governance to dealing with corruption, to advancing human rights and rule of law, and evolving political analysis, this Workgroup aims to inform and educate its members on any and all development issues that relate to democracy, rights, and governance, as well as how civil society can help shape economic and social outcomes. The Workgroup also works to examine principles important to democracy, human rights, and governance, including transparency, accountability, participation, and inclusion.



Dear Members of the Democracy, Rights, and Governance Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another productive year, with programming that was entirely virtual! As we reflect on the past year, the Workgroup produced one great event, **Practicing Thinking and Working Politically (TWP): Voices from the Field** and a planning meeting. We are currently working on a new and exciting slate of events for FY 2022, so stayed tuned for more information!

After 5 years with our team, **Paul Sherman**, our Director of Programs, will be stepping down from his role to pursue graduate studies. Paul is still involved with SID-Washington as a Consultant. Thank you, Paul, for your effort and commitment to the Workgroups and their programming!

Stepping into Paul's role, we would like to welcome **Malavika Randive** as our new Program Coordinator. Malavika will be working closely with our Co-Chairs in planning events for the Workgroup.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the Workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Raphaelson".

Katherine Raphaelson



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malavika Randive".

Malavika Randive



**Patrick
Quirk**

Senior Director for Strategy, Research,
and Center for Global Impact,
International Republican Institute (IRI)

Patrick Quirk serves as Senior Director for Strategy, Research, and the Center for Global Impact at the International Republican Institute (IRI). In this role, he manages the team of thematic experts, researchers, and global project staff who help IRI monitor and develop innovative approaches to address global challenges to democracy. He also oversees IRI's institutional efforts on monitoring, evaluation and learning, and applied research. Concurrent to serving at IRI, Dr. Quirk is a Nonresident Fellow in the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University.

Before joining IRI, Dr. Quirk served on the U.S. Secretary of State's Policy Planning staff in the Department of State as the lead advisor for fragile states, conflict and stabilization, and foreign assistance. From 2018-2019, he conceptualized, and managed the process to advance, the new U.S. approach to fragile states. \

Prior to Policy Planning, he served in State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) as Senior Advisor for Policy and Strategy. In this capacity, he was the chief political scientist for, and a lead author of, the 2018 Stabilization Assistance Review (SAR) and led the team that conceptualized and institutionalized CSO's approach to mitigate conflict surrounding elections and political transitions. From 2017-2018, he was a Nonresident Penn Kemble Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Prior to government service, Dr. Quirk was a Research Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and a Senior Manager at Creative Associates International, where he led risk assessments for the U.S. government and managed democracy assistance and conflict prevention programs.

His is the author of *Great Powers, Weak States, and Insurgency: Explaining Internal Threat Alliances*, co-author of USAID's *Best Practices in Electoral Security, a Guide for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Programming*, and a lead author of State CSO's *Electoral Violence Assessment Framework assessment methodology*.

Quirk earned a B.A. in History from Bates College and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University. *Threat Alliances*, co-author of USAID's *Best Practices in Electoral Security, a Guide for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Programming*, and a lead author of State CSO's *Electoral Violence Assessment Framework assessment methodology*.



**Barbara
Smith**

Vice President, Peace Programs,
The Carter Center

Barbara Smith oversees the Carter Center’s democracy, human rights, conflict resolution, and rule of law programs, which operate projects and observe elections in countries across the globe.

Before coming to The Carter Center in September 2020, Smith was principal and founder of the international development consulting firm Mountain Time Development. She also was a senior associate at the Center for Strategic & International Studies, focused on the Human Rights Initiative, conducting field work and research on civil society. Her wide-ranging career also includes assignments at the United States Agency for International Development and with the National Security Council in the White House.

At USAID, Smith held a number of positions, most recently as deputy assistant to the administrator in the Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning. She also co-led the team that created the seminal USAID 2013 Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Strategy, which is applied across the approximately 100 countries where USAID works. Other positions she held at USAID included senior policy analyst, deputy coordinator for Middle East Transition Response during the Arab Spring, and senior field advisor for democracy and governance.

Smith served on the National Security Council as a director for Afghanistan and Pakistan affairs and as senior director for governance and law at the Asia Foundation. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, she was a spokesperson for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. In Afghanistan, she was assistant country representative for the Asia Foundation, where she also directed the foundation’s efforts to assist Afghanistan in holding its first post-Taliban elections.

Smith earned a bachelor’s degree in government from the University of Texas and a master’s degree in political science from Texas State University.

Wednesday, July 22, 2020
9:00AM - 10:30 AM ET | Zoom

Practicing Thinking and Working Politically
(TWP): Voices from the Field

Thursday, January 7, 2021
11:00AM - 12:30 PM ET | Zoom

Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup
Planning Meeting



Practicing Thinking and Working Politically (TWP): Voices from the Field

Moderator: **Ann Hudock**, President and CEO, Counterpart International

Speakers: **Sarah Frazer**, Senior Research Scientist, RTI International
Alina Rocha Menocal, Principal Research Fellow, Politics and Governance Programme, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Event Description: Current thinking on effective international development interventions highlights the importance of “thinking and working politically” (TWP). Among the emerging lessons of experience is that thinking politically, using tools such as political economy analysis, is more easily undertaken than working politically. How can the two pillars of TWP be effectively integrated? What challenges exist and how have practitioners confronted them?

This session focused on listening to voices from the field to explore answers to these questions. The organizers solicited proposals from implementers, reaching out to SID-W members and the Washington, D.C.-based TWP community of practice. They selected the following four projects that illustrate different approaches to practicing TWP.

- Mercy Corps: Integrated Maji Infrastructure and Governance Initiative for Eastern Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Asia Foundation: Tourism Strategy Project, Timor-Leste
- Counterpart International: Rights and Dignity Project, El Salvador
- RTI International: Knowledge Sector Initiative, Indonesia

Their voices were bookended by Sarah Frazer (RTI International), who summarized a recent study, *Thinking and Working Politically: Lessons from Diverse and Inclusive Applied Political Economy Analysis*, and Alina Rocha Menocal (Overseas Development Institute), who provided commentary on the four projects and the study findings. Ann Hudock (Counterpart International) moderated.

Key Takeaways:

1) Video Interviews: TWP in Practice

The event began with brief speaker introductions and was followed by video presentations of four distinct projects in international development that practice thinking and working politically (TWP):

1. *Mercy Corps: Integrated Maji Infrastructure and Governance Initiative for Eastern Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo* - Mercy Corps’ IMAGINE Program project seeks to both improve public water systems and create equitable access to water in the DRC. Within this project, TWP is exercised by being deliberate about changes brought to an existing system, understanding why these changes are made, and being accountable for all actions and outcomes.

2. *Asia Foundation: Tourism Strategy Project, Timor-Leste* - The Asia Foundation project focuses on governance, economic diversification, and evidence-based policymaking to further develop the tourism industry in Timor-Leste. TWP played an integral role, serving as a tool to measure that all work conducted was politically feasible.

3. *Counterpart International: Rights and Dignity Project, El Salvador* - The Counterpart International Rights and Dignity Project works to strengthen human rights protection systems in El Salvador. To achieve this objective, implementers have reached out to women, youth, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA community. Counterpart International emphasizes thinking and working both politically and inclusively to enhance human rights in this country.

4. *RTI International: Knowledge Sector Initiative, Indonesia* - KSI seeks to support a range of policy institutes along with ministries in the Indonesian government. They undertake a catalytic role and use their understanding of TWP to seek momentum and amplify their work.

Democracy, Rights, & Governance Workgroup Planning Meeting

Workgroup Co-Chairs: **Patrick Quirk**, Senior Director for Strategy, Research, and Center for Global Impact, International Republican Institute (IRI)
Barbara Smith, Vice President, Peace Programs, The Carter Center

Key Takeaways:

I. Welcome and Introductions

Workgroup Co-Chairs **Barbara Smith** (The Carter Center) and **Patrick Quirk** (International Republican Institute) began the event with an introduction of each participant. They then discussed the meeting agenda and their plans to host two events in 2021.

II. Topic Discussion

Quirk reviewed the following nine topics in the order they were ranked in a survey by members, and the group discussed each topic in an attempt to condense the list and narrow the focus:

- Democratic backsliding and closing space for civil society analytic approaches and programming interventions
- Digital Democracy: technology, social media, and disinformation in DRG
- DRG agenda for the next decade: Biden administration and beyond
- Countering Kleptocracy
- Understanding and addressing the impact of China's engagement on development and democracy
- Importance of DRG to Implementation of the Global Fragility Act (GFA) and associated Global Fragility Strategy (GFS)
- Good governance and effective health systems
- Human rights and DRG assistance: addressing abuses against minority populations
- Private sector involvement in governance programs

a. Smith opened the discussion, inquiring if there were any additional topics members wanted to be added. Quirk began the condensing process by asking members to narrow the list to their top 3 choices they feel strongly about. The group

discussed examining how COVID has changed and impacted development and how integrating DRG is key in all development sectors. Other topics included considering a youth political participation event as a follow-up event to the Biden summit. Members mentioned the importance of focusing on inclusion in all marginalized populations, races, and what it means in different places. Finally, inequality as a challenge beyond economics and broader than political participation and rights were discussed as a topic to be included in event planning.

b. Smith and Quirk shifted the discussion to what events members want to see, and after discussion and input from members, the group reached the following consensus:

- Having something relating to the new Biden administration would help combine some of these ideas into DRG approaches, the digital democracy/ governance.
- Discussing how the Biden administration will shift or alter the approach to COVID-19.
- Given the COVID-19 crisis, considering a potential event with the Health and Nutrition Work-Group.

III. Consensus

From this conversation, two main themes emerged: (1) Looking at the Biden administration's priorities in democracy, rights, and governance. (2) Key challenges working in COVID-19 context, opportunities including digital democracy and governance, integration and inclusion, elevating voices and empowering the field, discussing the right approach, and the lessons from the pandemic. Finally, members suggested reaching out to international think tanks.

IV. Next Steps

Based on the discussion, Smith and Quirk will compile the feedback from the meeting and coordinate with SID-W staff to roll out events over the course of the year.

**Society for International Development
Washington Chapter**

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For any inquiries, please reach out to us at events@sidw.org.

FY 2021 Workgroup Co-Chairs

Patrick Quick - Senior Director for Strategy, Research, and Center for Global Impact, International Republican Institute (IRI)

Barbara Smith - Vice President, Peace Programs, The Carter Center

Photo Credit

Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs
Screenshots from various SID-W events
Stock images from Canva

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