

Local Democracy - Reform and Development

International workshop in Tromsø, June 8, 2011

Organized by Local Democracy Research group, HSL Faculty, University of Tromsø

Venue: Tromsø University campus, Breivika, N- 9037 Tromsø, room E01013

The workshop theme

Increasingly, local authorities are met with the double expectation of providing high-quality public services, and at the same time of promoting local economic and cultural development. And the citizens themselves are, by local elections, given the power to decide who should lead in local and regional policy-making.

Within this wide setting, the aim of the workshop is to discuss in what way, and to what extent, recent reforms are influencing democratic leadership and citizen participation. Are the reforms enabling or empowering local democracy with respect to novel planning tools, leadership and networking capacities? Are reforms at local and regional levels calibrated so as to enhance citizen participation – and can reforms lead to place promotion, to cultural and economic growth – to resonate with an output democracy perspective? We invite researchers and phd students to present perspectives as well as empirical findings related to recent reforms, to participate in the discussions, and to plan for future international cooperation on projects and publications.

Schedule

(Tuesday June 7, at 8 pm - Informal gathering at Skarven cafe)

Wednesday June 8

0830 Registration, coffee

0900 Opening of workshop by Nils Aarsæther and Hilde Bjørnå

0915 Lecture: Karl Løfgren, Roskilde: *Local democracy and amalgamation reform: Danish experiences*

1000 Discussion

1015 Break

1030 Paper session 1 (3 papers in each group)

1200 Lunch

1315 Lecture: Jenny Airaksinen, Tampere: *Local and regional-level reforms in Finland: Regulation and self-regulation*

1400 Discussion

1415 Break

1430 Paper session 2 (3 papers in each group)

1600 Plenary discussion – common projects, publications ahead?

1645 End of workshop

1900 Informal dinner, downtown Tromsø.

If more than 6 papers are to be presented, parallel sessions will be organized. Changes in the schedule may occur within the time frame; the key-note presentations are given tentative themes above.

Workshop practicalities:

Researchers and phd students are invited to join the workshop, both as discussants and by offering presentations. For each paper to be presented, one discussant will be appointed in advance. **There is no registration fee**, but participants are asked to register by sending an e-mail to nils.aarsæther@uit.no, no later than May 10th, indicating title of paper, if the participant wants to present a paper at the workshop.

Participants offering paper presentations will be asked to distribute their papers by e-mail attachments to the other participants, by May 25th latest. The organizers will communicate a list of participants before that.

As the workshop starts at 0900 June 8, participants from outside of Tromsø are advised to book accommodation from June 7. The one-day workshop ends at 1645, and all participants will be invited to an informal dinner at 1900 in the evening June 8th.

On behalf of the organizers

Nils Aarsæther and Hilde Bjørnå

LDR group

HSL Faculty

Dept. of Sociology, Political Science & Community Planning

University of Tromsø

N-9037 Tromsø