



# CITIZENSHIP TRANSFORMATIONS IN A GLOBAL WORLD

Helsinki 9-10 February 2012

## Call for papers

The recent political upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa, and the rise of indigenous politics in Latin America bear witness to the complexities of today's global predicament marked with rapid structural transformations. The coinciding processes of economic crises, increasing effects of climate change, accelerating urbanization, and shifts in the global matrix of financial and political power represent challenges that need coordinated responses. Recent popular uprisings in the Global South and, for that matter, North make evident how fragile the economies, governments and polities may be beyond their public appearance, and exhibit the multiplex forms of political imagination and action by the people living "under the threshold".

The accelerating flows of people, capital, ideas and technologies certainly open new spaces, stretching the limits of possible action. However, they play out often unequally, effecting new differences among people based on, for instance, social position, gender, age, ethnicity, geographic location and cosmopolitan connections. Importantly, today's globalization implies lasting effects on the ways in which people – both individually and collectively – relate to the social world and public authorities, including the state. In this sense, the notion of citizenship as a form of social belonging and membership is currently challenged and reconstructed in a myriad of ways.

What relevance do the changing forms and senses of social membership and authority have for the study of development processes? Does development practice and policy promote certain normative registers for how people should act with, and making sense of, their relation with public authorities? What kind of citizenship constructions does the development complex take for granted? How do are these constructs formed – and acted upon – in the development policy and practice and what exactly happens when these collide with the lived realities on the ground?

This conference examines the notion of "citizenship transformations" (in transitive and intransitive senses) and focuses on the interconnected processes of citizenship, social membership and development in today's global world. The organizers invite both working groups and papers from a broad range of approaches and academic disciplines.

## CITIZENSHIP TRANSFORMATIONS IN A GLOBAL WORLD (9-10 February 2012)

- Development Research Conference

**Venue** House of Sciences and Letters (Tieteidentalo), Kirkkokatu 6, Helsinki

**Organizers** Finnish Society for Development Research (FSDR), Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID) and Department of Political and Economic Studies, University of Helsinki

### SPEAKERS

**Mervat Hatem**, Professor of Political Science, Howard University, USA

**Carles Feixa**, Professor of Anthropology, University of Lleida, Spain

**Sian Lazar**, Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK

**Pekka Haavisto**, MP, Special representative in Sudan and Somalia, Foreign Ministry of Finland

### WORKING GROUPS

1 [Citizenship and conflict in Africa](#)

2 [Environmental risk and environmental citizenship](#)

3 [Challenged citizenships: African youth and childhood research](#)

4 [Cultural sustainability: Changing cultures and citizenship](#)

5 [The dynamics of citizen participation in a global world](#)

6 [Citizenship and social belonging](#)

7 [Education and the changing forms of citizenship](#)

8 [North-South learning and citizenship transformations](#)

9 [Religion and development in the Global South](#)

The working groups represent the main bulk of academic debates during the conference. They are organized thematically and open to all registered participants in the conference, including those who do not present a paper.

### IMPORTANT DATES

*1 December 2011* Deadline for abstract submission (max. 200 words)

*15 December 2011* Acceptance of abstracts confirmed

*31 January 2012* Conference registration due

*1 February 2012* Deadline for full papers (max. 8000 words)

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

All conference participants, including those without a paper, are kindly asked to register their participation in advance by sending an email to: [registration2012\[at\]kehitystutkimus.fi](mailto:registration2012[at]kehitystutkimus.fi). The conference premises fit 120 participants, and a preference is given to those presenting a paper. See: [Programme](#). There are tentative plans to edit a special issue for *Journal of Civil Society* on the basis of the most qualified conference papers.

The conference fee is 30 € and 10 € to students, and payable to *Kehitystutkimuksen Seura ry* (IBAN: FI8580001700489744) by the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012. The conference organizers cannot unfortunately provide accommodation for conference participants, see [hotel options](#) in central Helsinki. The main conference language is English.

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[www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference](http://www.kehitystutkimus.fi/conference)