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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ANNUAL LEARNING FORUM 2023

CEPPS Annual Learning Forum Speakers & Panelists

May 22-25, 2023

Opening Ceremony



Kira Ribar

Senior Director of Strategy and Operations, CEPPS (Emcee)

Kira Ribar is the Senior Director for Strategy and Operations of the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), holder of the Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) leader with associates awards from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Ms. Ribar has over 16 years of direct experience in the democracy and governance sector, during which she has overseen successful proposal development, donor negotiations and the day-to-day administrative and compliance aspects of large, complex USAID-funded governance programs. Prior to working at CEPPS, Ms. Ribar worked at the National Democratic Institute, where she designed, managed and implemented DRG programming in Latin America. In this capacity, she also participated in institutional working groups to design new sub-granting mechanisms and develop lessons learned for work in closing spaces. Ms. Ribar has also previously worked on DRG programming for LAC at Freedom House, as well as on Capitol Hill for a New Jersey congressman.



Stacie Brown

Democracy Specialist, USAID Democracy, Rights and Governance Center

Stacie Brown is a Democracy Specialist on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Democracy, Rights and Governance Center's Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) team. In this role, she advises USAID missions on the design and implementation of election programs and strategies. She is the lead for the LAC region on the DEPP team and serves as the DRG Center's primary point of contact for Haiti and Nigeria. She is the AOR for the global Democratic Elections and Political Processes LWA, overseeing the Leader Award and advising on Associate Awards, and manages the Agency's relationship with the CEPPS consortium. Before joining USAID, Stacie worked at the International Republican Institute as a Program Officer/Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist in the LAC division, where she supported programs in Central America's Northern Triangle, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.



Marcia Mundt

REL Director, CEPPS (Moderator)

Marcia Mundt, PhD, is the Director of Research, Evaluation, and Learning for the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS). She oversees USAID Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) leader with associates awards research and learning agenda and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Her research focuses on democracy promotion in fragile and post-conflict contexts to promote development, social justice, and more peaceful and prosperous communities worldwide. Prior to working with CEPPS, Marcia was a Senior Program Officer with the Curriculum and Training Design and Learning, Evaluation, and Research teams at the United States Institute of Peace.



Natalie Trisilla

Evidence and Learning Director, IRI

Natalie Trisilla is the Director for Evidence and Learning at the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Center for Global Impact. She oversees IRI's monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning technical support and projects, helping ensure that IRI's programs and approaches are results-oriented and evidence-based. Natalie joined IRI in 2011 to support IRI's capacity-building and women's empowerment programs in China and Timor-Leste. Natalie has served as an international election observer for several national elections in Southeast Asia. Prior to joining IRI, Natalie worked for the United Nations Environment Program on post-conflict development and natural resource governance issues.



Rakesh Sharma

MEASURE Director, IFES

Rakesh Sharma is the Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Survey Research (MEASURE) at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and oversees IFES efforts to effectively utilize program and research data to evaluate, inform, and learn from its programming around the world. Rakesh directs IFES efforts to monitor and evaluate its programming for project management and learning. In this capacity, he manages a diverse portfolio of monitoring and evaluation initiatives focused on determining the effectiveness of IFES programming and developing lesson learned to strengthen future programs of support in democracy and governance. Rakesh has worked extensively on IFES public opinion projects around the world, conducting research in more than 40 countries during this time with significant experience working in developing democracies including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Liberia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Ukraine.



Linda Stern

Global DMEL Director, NDI

Linda Stern is the director of Global Design, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (G-DMEL) at the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and leads the Institute's efforts to build an evidence base for democracy assistance programs; and promote evidence-based learning at NDI. On behalf of the Institute, Linda also leads the Fundamental Freedoms Fund - Research, Evaluation & Learning (FFF-REL) initiative, a consortium of evaluators from seven leading democracy and human rights organizations. She joined the Institute in 2007 with over 20 years of experience in the social justice sector, working in the U.S., Latin America, Central & Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa.

Inclusive Accountability through Citizen Participation in Electoral and Political Processes



Rosie Parkyn

Global Director of Impact, Internews (Moderator)

Rosie Parkyn is the Global Director of Impact with the Internews Alliance, an international non-profit that works in over 100 countries to support journalists and the free flow of high-quality information where these are most at risk. Prior to joining Internews, she spent ten years with the BBC's international development charity where she designed, developed and implemented programs to support local and national public service media across Africa and South East Asia and worked to ensure that political decision-makers prioritized media freedom. This followed a stint running a prison radio station in Wandsworth, South West London. She is also a Trustee for the Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities Network.



Jess Keegan

Senior Advisor for Electoral Integrity, IRI

Jessica Keegan joined the International Republican Institute (IRI) in 2011 to lead the Institute's efforts to promote civic and voter education initiatives in Egypt and the Middle East. She brings over fifteen years of experience in democratization and governance programming, issue advocacy, and election observation management in transitional and post-conflict countries. In her current role as Senior Advisor for Electoral Integrity, Jessica leads the Institute's technical advancement in the areas of democratic elections and political processes globally; this includes overseeing the development of programmatic approaches to enhance voter education, conduct independent and impartial election observation, mitigate electoral violence, and promote inclusive election reform.



Lisa Reppell

Senior Global Social Media and Disinformation Specialist, IFES

Lisa Reppell is the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Senior Global Social Media and Disinformation Specialist. In this role, she serves as the focal point for research, program design, and technical assistance to country programs for IFES's information integrity and counter-disinformation portfolio. She has engaged with election commissions, tribunals, courts, government interlocutors, and civil society in the provision of IFES's technical assistance and research initiatives in more than 25 countries. Lisa also facilitates IFES's relationships with private-sector technology companies and serves on the Board of the Observatory on Social Media of the Global Network for Electoral Justice.



Richard L Klein

Director of Elections Programs, NDI

Richard L. Klein is the National Democratic Institute's (NDI) Director of Elections Programs. Previously he served for over a decade as a Senior Advisor for Elections at the Institute. Richard is a global leader in promoting electoral integrity with over 30 years of experience building the capacity of local civic and faith-based organizations to observe elections and organize international observation missions. He has provided support for citizen observation efforts and international observer missions for more than 50 elections in over 25 countries around the world with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa.



Susan Hyde

Professor and Department Chair, Department of Political Science, UC Berkley

Susan D. Hyde is a Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkley. She is currently the chair of the Department of Political Science, and the co-director of the Institute of International Studies. She studies international influences on domestic politics, teaches courses on international relations and comparative politics, and is active in promoting policy-relevant research. She is an expert on international election observation, election fraud, democracy promotion, and international norms. Her research on election observation included serving on missions in Afghanistan, Albania, Indonesia, Liberia, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Venezuela.

Inclusive Accountability through Multi-Party Systems of Representation



Natalie Trisilla

Evidence and Learning Director, IRI (Moderator)

Natalie Trisilla is the Director for Evidence and Learning at the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Center for Global Impact. She oversees IRI's monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning technical support and projects, helping ensure that IRI's programs and approaches are results-oriented and evidence-based. Natalie joined IRI in 2011 to support IRI's capacity-building and women's empowerment programs in China and Timor-Leste. Natalie has served as an international election observer for several national elections in Southeast Asia. Prior to joining IRI, Natalie worked for the United Nations Environment Program on post-conflict development and natural resource governance issues.



Katya Rimkunas

Director for Democracy, Rights, and Governance Technical Leadership, IRI

Katya Rimkunas serves as the Director for Democracy, Rights and Governance, Technical Leadership for the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Center for Global Impact. In this role, she provides strategic direction for and oversight of IRI's development and implementation approaches and innovative programming across various technical areas – from political party strengthening to electoral integrity to governance. Prior to Katya's appointment to this role, she served as IRI's Regional Deputy Director for Latin America and the Caribbean where she oversaw the development and implementation of a wide range of programs including on civic engagement, legislative strengthening, inter-government coordination, and elections and political processes in 20 countries. She's a member of the [Global Advisory Council](#) for the McCain Institute's Global Leaders Program and prior to joining IRI, Rimkunas worked in the office of Senator John McCain.



Max Zaldivar

Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, IFES

Máximo Zaldivar serves as Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). He has over 20 years of experience in democracy, elections, and political processes. Originally from El Salvador, he has led democracy and governance programs around the world. He has served in Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, Mexico, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Venezuela on programs funded by the United States Agency for International Development, Office for Transition Initiatives, U.S Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the National Endowment for Democracy.



Julian Quibell

Ecuador Country Director, NDI

Julian Quibell is the National Democratic Institute's (NDI) Director in Ecuador. He previously served as NDI's Resident Director in Mexico (2004-2012) and Nicaragua (2012-2020). The programs he has managed have worked to support domestic election observation, youth leadership, electoral reform, civic education and civil society advocacy. In addition, Julian has designed and implemented programs to strengthen the organizational capacity of political parties and increase the political participation of historically marginalized populations, including Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI), persons with disabilities, women, and youth.

Inclusive Accountability through Checks, Balances, and Oversight across Independent and Government Institutions



Rakesh Sharma

MEASURE Director, IFES (Moderator)

Rakesh Sharma is the Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Survey Research (MEASURE) at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and oversees IFES efforts to effectively utilize program and research data to evaluate, inform, and learn from its programming around the world. Rakesh directs IFES efforts to monitor and evaluate its programming for project management and learning. In this capacity, he manages a diverse portfolio of monitoring and evaluation initiatives focused on determining the effectiveness of IFES programming and developing lesson learned to strengthen future programs of support in democracy and governance. Rakesh has worked extensively on IFES public opinion projects around the world, conducting research in more than 40 countries during this time with significant experience working in developing democracies including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Liberia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Ukraine.



Fernanda Buriel

Deputy Director of the Center for Applied Research and Learning, IFES

Dr. Fernanda Buriel is the Deputy Director of the Center for Applied Research and Learning at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). Her main areas of expertise revolve around political transitions, electoral operations, conflict and security and electoral integrity. She supports the application of innovative research and assessment frameworks to promote evidence-based programs and provides technical assistance to partners around the world.



Kristen Sample

Governance Director, NDI

Kristen Sample is the Director of the National Democratic Institute's (NDI) Democratic Governance team. Kristen has more than 20 years of experience in democratic governance programming. During her previous tenure as Director of Global Programs for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), she was responsible for overseeing the Institute's global comparative research in elections, parties and parliaments, constitution building, gender and diversity, and democracy "delivery" for development. She also coordinated International IDEA's gender and democracy activities throughout Latin America, including election observation with the Organization of American States, media monitoring with UN Women, and political party benchmarking with the Inter-American Development Bank and UN Development Program.



Brigitte Seim

Principle Investigator, D-Arch and Associate Professor of Public Policy, UNC Chapel Hill

Dr. Brigitte Seim is a scholar of comparative politics, focusing on the political economy of development. Her research agenda examines the relationship between citizens and political officials, with a particular emphasis on accountability in developing democracies. To conduct this research, she partners with government institutions, international organizations, and policymakers, as well as other academics. Brigitte's current research typically focuses on Sub-Saharan Africa, using experimental approaches to study the efficacy of accountability interventions and anti-corruption policy. She is also Project Manager of Experiments for the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project and a founding Principal Investigator of the Digital Society Project, both of which provide cross-national, high-quality, publicly available data describing the intersection of politics and social media.



Edmund Malesky

Professor of Political Economy, Duke University

Dr. Edmund Malesky is a Professor of Political Economy in the Political Science Department at Duke University and a noted specialist in economic development, authoritarian institutions, and comparative political economy. In 2020, he became the director of the Duke Center for International Development, a unit within Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy that advances international development policy and practice through interdisciplinary approaches to post-graduate education, mid-career training, international advising, and research. board of the Vietnam Education Foundation.

Inclusive Accountability through an Engaged Civil Society and Independent Media



Linda Stern

Global DMEL Director, NDI (Moderator)

Linda Stern is the director of Global Design, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (G-DMEL) at the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and leads the Institute's efforts to build an evidence base for democracy assistance programs; and promote evidence-based learning at NDI. On behalf of the Institute, Linda also leads the Fundamental Freedoms Fund - Research, Evaluation & Learning (FFF-REL) initiative, a consortium of evaluators from seven leading democracy and human rights organizations. She joined the Institute in 2007 with over 20 years of experience in the social justice sector, working in the U.S., Latin America, Central & Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa.



Greg Simpson

Director, Middle East and North Africa, CIPE

Greg Simpson is Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), where he manages democratic and free-market reform programs in 15 countries of the MENA region. Greg has more than twenty years of experience with democracy and civil-society-strengthening initiatives, with a particular focus on strengthening membership-based civil society organizations. At CIPE, he has conducted training programs in strategic planning, advocacy, organizational governance and management, membership development, and internal and external communication for business associations, chambers of commerce and industry, and other private sector organizations throughout the MENA region.



Alison Campbell

Senior Technical Advisor, Internews

Alison Campbell, Senior Technical Advisor with Internews, has more than 20 years of experience in the media development sector, working with local media outlets in humanitarian and health emergencies, democratic transitions, and conflict and post-conflict scenarios. Following the 2021 coup in Myanmar, Alison returned to Asia to support the Internews Myanmar team to respond to the political crisis and conflict in the country. Before joining Internews, Alison worked in radio and TV newsrooms in South Africa and in the UK, and as CARE Emergency Unit Press Officer for humanitarian responses in Rwanda, DR Congo, Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Bosnia.



Bret Barrowman

Senior Specialist for Research and Evaluation, IRI

Bret Barrowman is a Senior Specialist for Research and Evaluation at the International Republican Institute (IRI). In this role, he both conducts original research and manages research and evaluation projects, including on issues of civil society, civic engagement, advocacy, and social movements. He has over five years of experience conducting applied social scientific research and evaluations on DRG programs, and fifteen years of experience in social science research on issues related to democracy, human rights, and governance. He received a PhD from George Washington University with a dissertation on anticorruption reform movements and political party development strategies in Georgia and Ukraine.



Jessica Gottlieb

Associate Professor, Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston

Jessica Gottlieb earned her PhD in political science and master's degree in economics from Stanford University. Her research focuses on the political economy of development and, in particular, constraints to government accountability and state capacity in new democracies. Much of her work has been in sub-Saharan Africa, where she has conducted field experiments, behavioral games and surveys. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked at the Center for Global Development on a project encouraging donors, country governments, and multilateral organizations to better learn what works in development through improved impact evaluation.

Inclusive Accountability through Transnational Bodies and Coalitions



Kim Bettcher

Director, Policy and Program Learning, CIPE (Moderator)

Kim Eric Bettcher leads the Center for International Private Enterprise's (CIPE) Policy and Program Learning (PPL) department, including knowledge management and applied research. PPL facilitates the international exchange of good practices, lessons learned, and policy options for democratic and market transitions. He has taught as an adjunct professor at George Mason University's School of Public Policy and was previously a research associate at Harvard Business School. Kim holds a Ph.D. in political science from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree from Harvard College.

Elizabeth Donkervoort

Program Director East Asia Programs, ABA ROLI

Elizabeth Donkervoort, Program Director for East Asia, joined the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in November 2020. Prior to joining ABA, Ms. Donkervoort was Senior Program Manager for Northeast Asia at IRI. Ms. Donkervoort is an expert in grassroots organization, with a focus on capacity building, strategic planning, and security in highly restrictive environments. For five years she was based in Hong Kong where she oversaw IRI's civil society capacity-building programs in the People's Republic of China and Laos People's Democratic Republic (2015-2016). While at IRI, Elizabeth developed the Institute's largest collection of training curricula and resources for activists, organizations, and citizen movements; helped develop security operations for closed societies; and trained Institute staff on conducting digital programs during the pandemic.



Eguiar Lizundia

Senior Advisor for Governance and Anti-corruption, IRI

Eguiar Lizundia is a Senior Advisor for Governance and Anti-Corruption in International Republican Institute's (IRI) Center for Global Impact. In his role, Eguiar leads IRI's global efforts to promote open government, strengthen legislatures, improve environmental governance, and fight corruption and kleptocracy. He recently served as the editor of *The Kleptocrat's Playbook* and has authored multiple toolkits and resources. Eguiar joined IRI in 2016 and served as Deputy Director for Technical Advancement until 2022. Prior to IRI, Eguiar helped design, implement and evaluate public sector management reform projects in Latin America and Africa at the World Bank. Previously, Eguiar was a consultant in Spain and a researcher in Argentina.



Richard Nash

Senior Global Advisor for Anti-Corruption, IFES

Richard has worked closely with civil society, the private sector and government partners throughout his career on topics related to good governance and anti-corruption. He worked with the World Bank Group in Afghanistan to improve the legal and regulatory oversight of the financial sector and led the Bank's response to the Kabul Bank collapse (one of the largest fraud/corruption schemes as a % of GDP in recent history). Prior to joining the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Richard worked as the Research Triangle Institute International's Senior Governance and Corruption Advisor, contributing to training and programming at the intersections of corruption and development, advancing the organization's understanding the role social norms play in corruption, and overseeing program design in countries spanning the LAC, Africa and E&E regions.



Sef Ashiagbor

Peace, Climate, Democratic Resilience Deputy Director, NDI

Sef Ashiagbor is the National Democratic Institute's (NDI) Deputy Director for Peace, Climate and Democratic Resilience. She has spent more than 25 years in the democracy and governance sector, conducting original research, developing program approaches, designing and evaluating programs, and guiding strategy development for political party, legislative, civil society and electoral integrity support programs. She frequently speaks on a wide range of issues, including: the crisis of representation, partisan polarization, political financing and party policy development.

Closing Ceremony



Rosarie Tucci

Director, USAID Center of Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (Keynote Speaker)

Rosarie Tucci is the Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance. She has worked in a variety of positions supporting human rights and issues disproportionately affecting excluded populations. Most recently, she served as the Director for Inclusive Societies, Peace Processes and Reconciliation at the U.S. Institute of Peace (2017-2021), Deputy Director for the Democracy, Rights and Governance Center at USAID (2015-2017), and Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator of USAID (2011- 2015). Ro has worked to advance projects and policy on issues such as enhancing civic space, countering trafficking in persons, the Rights of LGBTI and persons with disabilities, youth engagement, and atrocity prevention. She also provided strategic guidance on programs in countries such as Colombia, South Sudan, Ukraine, CAR and Yemen.



Terry Hoverter

Senior Technical Director, CEPPS (Moderator)

Terry Hoverter is the Senior Technical Director of the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), which currently holds the Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) leader with associate awards from USAID. Terry has over 20 years of experience developing and leading short- and long-term programs that focus on critical democracy and governance issues for organizations such as NDI, Creative Associates International, Democracy International, the Public International Law & Policy Group, USAID, and the UNDP. These programs have focused on electoral and political processes, constitutional processes and drafting, anti-corruption, parliamentary strengthening, local governance, civil society, rule of law, and stabilization. Terry has also written extensively on technical areas related to electoral and political processes, particularly in the areas of inclusive constitutional process and electoral dispute resolution, two of his interests. While he's never counted, he reckons he's worked/lived in almost 60 countries



Katherine Ellena

Vice President of Programs, IFES

As the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Vice President of Programs, Katherine Ellena provides strategic and operational leadership to IFES's field programs worldwide. Katherine first joined IFES in the field in 2004, working as a legal fellow for IFES's program in India. Following a stint with New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which included a field assignment in Indonesia, Ellena joined IFES Headquarters, managing large and complex field programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Most recently, Ellena served as IFES's senior global legal advisor, providing direct technical assistance to IFES's field programs, and has worked with government ministries, election commissions, oversight bodies, anti-corruption commissions, tribunals, courts, government interlocutors, and civil society in over 25 countries over the past 18 years. Before joining IFES, Ellena served as acting vice president of the United States New Zealand Council and previously worked as a research and faculty associate with the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Department of Defense Analysis, co-authoring a book on terrorism.



Patrick Quirk

Vice President for Strategy, Innovation, and Impact, IRI

Patrick Quirk, PhD, leads the International Republican Institute's (IRI) organization-wide strategic planning as well as oversees institutional efforts on monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning. Patrick also oversees the Center for Global Impact, the 60-person team of thematic experts, researchers, and global project staff who help IRI monitor and develop innovative approaches to priority technical areas—from countering foreign authoritarian influence and combatting corruption, to strengthening political parties. Concurrent to serving at IRI, Patrick is a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University.



Stephanie Rust

Chief Programs Officer, NDI

Stephanie Rust serves as Chief Programs Officer responsible for the National Democratic Institute's (NDI) program design, delivery and impact, including oversight of NDI's regional and functional teams. Stephanie is a global development executive with 25 years of experience providing thought leadership, program design, and strategic management in the areas of democracy, education, environment, and community development. She has worked in over 20 countries around the world and has extensive geographic experience in Europe, Asia and Latin America. She specializes in the integration of capacity development, institution building, knowledge management, and partnership practices to shape locally-driven solutions.