

Decentralisation, Local Democracy, and Social Justice

European and Global Perspectives

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Monday 12:15-13:45

Room: [AFL-E-011](#)

1. Topic

In the first global report on decentralization and local democracy published by the UCLG and the World Bank (2009), the authors insist that "[w]hile many of the problems facing cities and towns may be global, the solutions will, in large measure, be local and unique to the specific circumstances on the ground". The goal of this MA-seminar is to understand and scrutinize the real-world relevance of this commonplace statement. In the seminar, we will read and discuss current academic research on the topic. First, conceptual issues will be addressed: What is decentralisation and local democracy? What are the characteristics of decentralized political systems? What do strong local democracies look like? What forms of decentralization and local democracy do we find in Europe and beyond? Second, we want to understand the conditions for successful decentralization and local democracy: Why do some countries decentralize while in others the central-state remains dominant? Are there common patterns of decentralization? What are the challenges faced by developing countries with regard to local democracy? Third, we will discuss the prospects of decentralization and local democratization for achieving social justice: Which forms of decentralized democracy do actually succeed in empowering otherwise marginalized population groups? Under which conditions?

2. Goals of the course

Part I: Decentralisation and local democracy

- Understanding central concepts: decentralisation, federalism, local autonomy, consensus democracy, local democracy
- Gaining expert knowledge on individually selected cases
- Reflection and examination of possible relationships between decentralisation, local democracy, and social justice

Part II: Causes: Account for the broader context: traditions, capacities, ethnic tensions

Part III: Consequences: Fine tuning the model of decentralised democracy: values, trade-offs, conditions, aims

Presentation and essay: Conceptual elaboration, theoretical argument, case description, recommendations

3. Schedule

20.02.2017	<p><u>Organisation and introduction: decentralisation, local democracy and social justice</u></p> <p>Recommended reading Campbell, Tim. 2009. "Conclusion. Decentralization and Democracy: A Global Perspective in 2007." In <i>Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World: First Global Report by United Cities and Local Governments</i>, edited by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), 285–307. Herndon, VA: World Bank Publications.</p>
<p>I. DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY</p>	
27.02.2017	<p><u>Federalism and decentralisation</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [1] You compare two countries of your choice with regard to their degree of federalism and/or decentralization. Besides the constitutional design you also consider its effective mode of operation: national party connections, centrally controlled administration, undue political requirements or financial dependence from higher state levels. How would you estimate its effects on democratic control and responsiveness to the needs of citizens? How might decentralisation/federalism affect public infrastructure in less developed regions in these countries? What might be the effects on redistribution through welfare state policies?</p> <p>Required reading Rodden, Jonathan. 2004. "Comparative Federalism and Decentralization: On Meaning and Measurement." <i>Comparative Politics</i> 36 (4): 481–500.</p> <p>Recommended readings Marks, Gary, Liesbet Hooghe, and Arjan H. Schakel. 2008. "Patterns of Regional Authority." <i>Regional & Federal Studies</i> 18 (2-3): 167–81.</p> <p><i>For regional overview chapters see:</i> United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ed. 2009. <i>Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World: First Global Report by United Cities and Local Governments</i>. Herndon, VA: World Bank Publications. [OLAT, meeting 1]</p>
06.03.2017	<p><u>Local autonomy and the welfare state</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [2] You compare two countries of your choice with regard to local autonomy. Besides the constitutional design you also discuss the distribution of competences and finances, the local capacity to act, and the municipal influence on the national policies. How might the particular constellations explain the extent of the welfare state in these two countries? More generally, which aspects of local autonomy might be favourable for expanding the welfare state? Why might local autonomy in Nordic countries have a different effect than in Switzerland?</p> <p>Required reading Sellers, Jefferey M., and Anders Lidström. 2007. "Decentralization, Local Government, and the Welfare State." <i>Governance</i> 20 (4): 609–32.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(continuation next page)</p>

	<p>Recommended readings Goldsmith, Mike. 1995. "Autonomy and City Limits." In <i>Theories of Urban Politics</i>, edited by David Judge, Gerry Stoker, and Harold Wolman, 72–95. London: Sage Publications Ltd.</p> <p><i>For regional overview chapters see:</i> United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ed. 2009. <i>Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World: First Global Report by United Cities and Local Governments</i>. Herndon, VA: World Bank Publications. [OLAT, meeting 1]</p> <p>United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ed. 2010. <i>Local Government Finance: The Challenges of the 21st Century. Executive Summary. Second Global Report on Decentralisation and Local Democracy</i>. Barcelona: UCLG.</p>
13.03.2017	<p><u>What kind of democracy for metropolitan areas?</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [3] Metropolitan government, public choice, or new regionalism: which form of metropolitan governance provides a better strategic capacity, a more efficient provision of public services, and/or a more equitable distribution of public goods across the metropolitan area? Which form is more democratic? Present the arguments from literature and your own conclusions.</p> <p>Required readings Savitch, Hank V. and Ronald K. Vogel. 2009. Regionalism and Urban Politics. In: <i>Theories of Urban Politics</i>. Second Edition, ed. by Jonathan S. Davies und David L. Imbroscio, 106–124. London: Sage Publications Ltd.</p> <p>Recommended readings Kübler, Daniel and Brigitte Schwab. 2007. New regionalism in five Swiss metropolitan areas: An assessment of inclusiveness, deliberation and democratic accountability. <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 46(4): 473–502.</p> <p><i>For a global perspective see:</i> Sellers, Jefferey and Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot. 2009. Metropolitan Governance. In: <i>Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World: First Global Report by United Cities and Local Governments</i>, ed. By United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), 256–283. Herndon, VA: World Bank Publications. [OLAT, meeting 1]</p>
20.03.2017	<p><u>Local government and consensus democracy</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [4] You describe the city of Lyon (F) in terms of consensual vs. majoritarian institutional characteristics mentioned by Loughlin et al., thereby referring to the institutional set-up at both the municipal and metropolitan level. In comparison, how would you describe the institutional characteristics of the core city of Zurich and its metropolitan area, where there is no metropolitan government: consensual or majoritarian? In sum, would you say consensual characteristics and metropolitan consolidation are favourable for promoting social justice within the core city and across its metropolitan area?</p> <p><u>Alternatively</u>, look at Stuttgart vs. Birmingham, or London vs. Berlin.</p>

	<p>Required readings Loughlin, John, Frank Hendriks, and Anders Lidström. 2011. "Introduction: The Changing Context of Subnational Democracy." In <i>The Oxford Handbook of Local and Regional Democracy in Europe</i>, edited by John Loughlin, Frank Hendriks, and Anders Lidström, 1–23. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Recommended readings Kübler, Daniel. 2012. Governing the Metropolis: Towards Kinder, Gentler Democracies. <i>European Political Science</i> 11(3): 430–445.</p> <p>Hendriks, Frank, John Loughlin, and Anders Lidström. 2011. "European Subnational Democracy: Comparative Reflections and Conclusions." In <i>The Oxford Handbook of Local and Regional Democracy in Europe</i>, edited by John Loughlin, Frank Hendriks, and Anders Lidström, 715–47. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p><i>For European country reports see further chapters in Loughlin et al. 2011 (in <u>course reserves ('Handapparat')</u> at the library of the institute).</i></p>
27.03.2017	<p><u>Summing up: is there an ideal form of decentralised democracy?</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [5] Which forms of decentralized democracy at the municipal, metropolitan or regional level look promising (e.g. vertical/horizontal power relations, mayoral leadership, inclusive representation)? How would you resolve possible tensions between different forms of democracy? How can you reconcile Dahl's dilemma between small scale democratic participation and the relevance of large-scale policies? How would you distribute particular policy and planning competences between government levels?</p> <p>Required reading Dahl, Robert A. 1967. "The City in the Future of Democracy." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 61 (4): 953–70.</p> <p>Recommended readings Young, Iris M. 2000. <i>Inclusion and Democracy</i>. Oxford Political Theory. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 6.</p>

II. CAUSES FOR DECENTRALISATION AND STRONG LOCAL DEMOCRACY	
03.04.2017	<p><u>State traditions and reform movements</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [6] Compare two countries of your choice and discuss the relevance of state traditions for the design and success of institutional, administrative and territorial reforms. Can you also find examples for less developed countries?</p> <p>Required reading Wolman, Harold. 1995. "Local Government Institutions and Democratic Governance." In <i>Theories of Urban Politics</i>, edited by David Judge, Gerry Stoker, and Harold Wolman, 135–59. London: Sage Publications Ltd.</p> <p>Recommended readings Loughlin, John, and B. Guy Peters. 1997. "State Traditions, Administrative Reform and Regionalization." In <i>The Political Economy of Regionalism</i>, edited by Michael Keating and John Loughlin, 41–62. London: Frank Cass.</p> <p><i>For regional overview chapters see:</i> United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ed. 2009. <i>Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World: First Global Report by United Cities and Local Governments</i>. Herndon, VA: World Bank Publications. [OLAT, meeting 1]</p>
10.04.2017	<p><u>Challenges to decentralisation and local democracy in developing countries</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [7] Choose two developing countries and compare their challenges to decentralizing reforms. What is the relationship between decentralization and a functioning democratic society? How does decentralization in these contexts favour/hinder measures for poverty reduction? What are your proposals for reform in your selected countries?</p> <p>Required reading Crook, Richard C. 2003. "Decentralisation and Poverty Reduction in Africa: The Politics of Local-Central Relations." <i>Public Administration and Development</i> 23 (1): 77–88.</p> <p>Recommended readings Devas, Nick, and Simon Delay. 2006. "Local Democracy and the Challenges of Decentralising the State: An International Perspective." <i>Local Government Studies</i> 32 (5): 677–95.</p> <p>Ribot, Jesse C. 2007. "Representation, Citizenship and the Public Domain in Democratic Decentralization." <i>Development</i> 50 (1): 43–49.</p> <p><i>For regional overview chapters see:</i> United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ed. 2009. <i>Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World: First Global Report by United Cities and Local Governments</i>. Herndon, VA: World Bank Publications. [OLAT, meeting 1]</p>

08.05.2017	<p><u>Decentralisation as a cure in multi-ethnic states?</u></p> <p>Focus of the presentation [8] Compare two multi-ethnic countries that have more or less open inter-ethnic conflict. Give a short description of their degree and form of decentralization. How would you estimate the effects of (further) decentralization in these countries? What territorial, administrative and political reforms would you recommend these countries? What forms of democracy would you propose for the local, regional and national level?</p> <p>Required reading Brancati, Dawn. 2006. "Decentralization: Fueling the Fire or Dampening the Flames of Ethnic Conflict and Secessionism?" <i>International Organization</i> 60 (03): 651–85.</p> <p>Recommended readings Rossi, Michael. 2014. "Ending the Impasse in Kosovo: Partition, Decentralization, or Consociationalism?" <i>Nationalities Papers</i> 42 (5): 867–89.</p> <p>Hale, Henry E. 2005. "The Makeup and Breakup of Ethnofederal States: Why Russia Survives Where the USSR Fell." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 3 (01): 55–70.</p> <p><i>For regional overview chapters see:</i> United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ed. 2009. <i>Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World: First Global Report by United Cities and Local Governments</i>. Herndon, VA: World Bank Publications. [OLAT, meeting 1]</p>
III. CONSEQUENCES OF DECENTRALISATION AND STRONG LOCAL DEMOCRACY	
15.05.2017	<p><u>Local government system: governing capacity and/or representation?</u></p> <p>(Sufficient time is allotted to the common discussion of questions arising from individual student's progress with their essays.)</p> <p>Required reading Haus, Michael, and Jan Erling Klausen. 2011. "Urban Leadership and Community Involvement: Ingredients for Good Governance?" <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> 47 (2): 256–79.</p> <p>Recommended reading Hankla, Charles, and William Downs. 2010. "Decentralisation, Governance and the Structure of Local Political Institutions: Lessons for Reform?" <i>Local Government Studies</i> 36 (6): 759–83.</p>
22.05.2017	<p><u>Metropolitan governance: social justice or global competitiveness?</u></p> <p>(Sufficient time is allotted to the common discussion of questions arising from individual student's progress with their essays.)</p> <p>Required reading Brenner, Neil. 2002. "Decoding the Newest 'Metropolitan Regionalism' in the USA: A Critical Overview." <i>Cities</i> 19 (1): 3–21.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Continuation next page)</p>

	<p>Recommended readings</p> <p>Lewis, James H., and David K. Hamilton. 2011. "Race and Regionalism: The Structure of Local Government and Racial Disparity." <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> 47 (3): 349–84.</p>
29.05.2017	<p><u>Conclusion: which democracy under which conditions, aiming for what?</u></p> <p>Review of the course topics and final discussion. (Last opportunity for discussion of questions arising from individual student's progress with their essays.)</p>

4. Organisation and assignments

Materials and Organisation

All course material – slides, readings - will be available through the online learning platform OLAT to registered students. Please use the OLAT forum for general questions regarding the course organisation. Use email only in case of personal matters.

Oral presentation and hand-out

Registered students need to give a short (10-15 min) oral presentation on the focus questions of one of the sessions (see tasks and questions in the programme above). The presenters are expected to have a good knowledge of all required and recommended readings for that session, and to make explicit reference to concepts and case descriptions in this or additional literature. The presentation is NOT supposed to summarize the readings. Your argumentation can also include points of criticism on some of these texts and it should show the relevance of the discussed issues in the broader context of the course topic. For the *evaluation criteria* for the presentation see the respective form posted on OLAT.

Presentations might be held in English or German. In either case you need to submit a 1-page English written hand-out on the electronic learning platform OLAT. Deadline for submitting the hand-out on OLAT is **Sunday before a course block, at midnight.**

Topics for oral presentations are distributed directly on a first come, first served basis in the first session of the seminar. A regularly updated list of the assignments is available on OLAT (wiki page). Please contact the lecturer through OLAT for your request for a slot.

Questions for discussion

Registered participants need to submit written questions and/or contributions for discussion for 4 sessions on OLAT. The questions should refer to the required readings and demonstrate a careful study of the text. You can choose the sessions for which you send questions freely. Deadline for sending in these questions is **Sunday before a course block, at midnight.**

Essay

Departing from a freely developed research question each student writes an essay. The essay has between 10-12 pages, spacing 1.5, font size Arial 12. Essays can be written in English or German.

You may choose between two forms of essays:

- Conceptual essay: A particular aspect of decentralisation and its implications for local democracy and/or social justice are discussed in detail. In so doing, you should make explicit reference to theoretical and conceptual ***scientific*** articles or book chapters (e.g. readings suggested above), and your argument needs to be substantiated with empirical illustrations of concrete countries/regions/cities, including the references and bibliography for the different sources (e.g. UCLG 2009, other reports, newspapers, books or articles).
- Case study or empirical essay: Departing from a particular aspect of decentralization and local democracy that has been discussed in the seminar (making reference to ***scientific*** articles or book chapters), you analyse a reform process or a development in a particular country (or a comparison of two countries). In particular you discuss the role of political actors, institutional settings and/or of a changed context that has an impact on this process. Make reference to all your information sources (e.g. UCLG 2009, other reports, newspapers, books or articles).

For the ***evaluation criteria*** for the essay see the respective form posted on OLAT.

Deadline for your essay is **July 9 2017, 24:00**, later submissions require a medical attendance report and approval by the deputy controller of examinations. You need to submit your essay in two forms: 1) upload a PDF version in the OLAT submission folder, 2) bring an identical printed version to the office AFL-H325 by July 10, 17:30 the latest. The printed version needs to come with a signed statement of authorship (print form: <http://www.ipz.uzh.ch/de/studium/MA/reglemente.html>).

The University of Zurich does not tolerate any forms of plagiarism and takes judicial and disciplinary steps against offenders. All sentences or passages derived from other people's work need to be specifically acknowledged by clear cross-referencing to author, work and page(s). For rules for citations and bibliographies please see information sheet on the link above (German only).

Credit points

To receive the 6 credit points for this seminar, you need to fulfil all three parts satisfactorily (oral presentation; questions for discussion; essay). The oral presentation counts for 30%, the essay for 50%, and the questions for discussion for 20% of the final grade.

For the evaluation criteria see respective folder on OLAT.

Information on module booking

- **Cancellation** of modules is only possible until Friday, March 3, 2017, 24:00.
- Booking of modules is only possible until Sunday, March 5, 2017, 24:00. **Students are required to control their modules through their web view and to print the web view as a confirmation.**
- From Saturday, March 4, 2017, 00:00 until Sunday, March 5, 2017, 24:00, it is therefore only possible to book modules. In this time frame students are able to book freed spaces that may have been cancelled by other students.