

Keck Center & Dreier Roundtable Joint Seminar
"Promoting Democracy Abroad: Perspectives from Practitioners and Theorists"
Thursday, October 8th, 2015 2:30-4:30p.m.

About the Seminar

Promoting the establishment of democracy and the rule of law abroad has long been one of the top foreign policy objectives of the United States. While alignment of strategic interests is forms a critical foundation of durable, cooperative, and friendly ties between the U.S. and other countries, such ties ultimately must rest on shared political values, accountable government, rule of law, and protection of human rights. Since the 1980s, the United States has invested enormous resources in promoting democracy and rule of law abroad. The National Endowment for Democracy, the umbrella organization of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute, has become an influential actor in this international arena. Over the last three decades, those who have engaged in democracy promotion abroad, including the IRI and NDI, have accumulated rich practical experience in this field and, on several occasions, made a crucial difference.

Schedule of Events

"How Does the U.S. Promote Democracy Abroad: Views from Veteran Practitioners"
2:30-3:30 PM, Freeberg Forum (Kravis Center, LC 62)

Hon. David Dreier '74, Distinguished Fellow, Brookings Institution; IRI Board Member; Co-Founder, U.S. House Democracy Partnership

Amb. Mark Green, President, International Republican Institute (IRI)

Mr. Les Campbell, Senior Associate and Regional Director, National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Throughout his career, Rep. David Dreier has been a leader in promoting democratic values and promoting democratic transitions abroad. Rep. Dreier, a former IRI board member, co-founded the U.S. House of Representative's House Democracy Partnership, which promotes responsive, effective government and works to strengthen democratic institutions by assisting legislatures in emerging democracies. He continues this work with the Dreier Roundtable and the Brookings Institution. In a conversation led by Rep. Dreier, Amb. Green and Mr. Campbell will share with us their personal, on-the-ground experience and perspectives on the lessons learned in the promotion of democracy and rule in societies with complex and difficult political and socioeconomic conditions.

"Beware Authoritarian Backlash: Challenge from Russian and China to Western Push for Democratization"
3:30-4:30 PM, Freeberg Forum (Kravis Center, LC 62)

Hon. David Dreier '74, Distinguished Fellow, Brookings Institution; IRI Board Member; Co-Founder, U.S. House Democracy Partnership

Dr. Kathryn Stoner, Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University

Prof. Minxin Pei, Professor of Government and Director of the Keck Center, Claremont McKenna College

If the promotion of democracy is a key American strategic objective, leading authoritarian regimes have also developed strategies to counter this effort. In a conversation moderated by Rep. Dreier, Dr. Stoner and Prof. Pei, who have spent a considerable part of their academic careers studying the spread of democracy in the post-Cold War era, will analyze how powerful authoritarian regimes, such as Russia and China, have learned to resist and frustrate the Western-led pro-democracy campaign around the world.