

## **Call for papers**

### **Electoral Authoritarianism and Democratization in Africa**

**A special issue of the Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft /  
Comparative Governance and Politics**

**Guest editors: Matthijs Bogaards and Sebastian Elischer**

The Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft (ZfVP)/ Comparative Governance and Politics is a bilingual (German/English) political science journal four issues per year. In addition, every year it publishes a special issue. The contributions to the special issue undergo the same process of peer-review as articles in the regular issues.

For 2014, a special issue is planned on "Electoral Authoritarianism and Democratization in Africa". The third wave of democratization not only resulted in a long list of democratic transitions, but also transformed the nature of authoritarianism. Nowadays, it is rare to find a dictatorship without multi-party elections. This phenomenon has attracted a lot of scholarly interest and is studied under the heading of "electoral authoritarianism" or "competitive authoritarianism". This special issue on "Electoral Authoritarianism and Democratization in Africa" aims to bring together for the first time scholarship on multi-party elections in authoritarian regimes in Africa. Leading question is whether Levitsky and Way (2010) are correct in predicting the persistence of competitive authoritarianism in Africa or whether we are witnessing and should expect to see a mix of authoritarian resilience and democratic breakthroughs. A follow-up question is what factors then explain these divergent trajectories and trends.

We welcome comparative analyses as well as theory-driven case studies on the topic of electoral authoritarianism and democratization in Africa. Potential contributions might focus on any of the following themes:

- the political economy of electoral authoritarianism
- the role of the military in Africa after the third wave of democratization
- civil society as regime supporting or regime challenging
- the push and pull of "linkage and leverage"
- the two-level game of electoral and regime politics

- the democratizing power of elections
- electoral authoritarianism and the Arab Spring in Northern Africa
- the interplay of informal and formal institutions
- defective democracies
- the distinction between competitive and hegemonic authoritarianism.

We would like to add that the above list is only illustrative and contributions on other relevant themes are welcome.

The guest editors plan to organize a workshop for potential contributors towards the end of 2013 in Hamburg. The workshop will be organized under the umbrella of the African European Groups of Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS). This call also serves as a call for papers for the 2013 workshop.

Scholars interested in participating in the workshop in Hamburg and in contributing to the special issue should contact by the end of February 2013:

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