

## Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia Pacific)

### PROPOSAL FOR THE 2015 ASIA PACIFIC GLOBAL CAMPUS EVENT

#### Event details

Format: International academic conference (key note speech/es, thematic panels) with the view to a publication (minimum: conference proceedings)

Title: In Search of Regional Perspectives on Democratisation

Timing and location: 4th - 6th June, 2015, in Bangkok/Thailand

#### Synopsis

In September 2014, the Global Council decided to hold a “visibility event” on the theme of democratisation to be organized and hosted by the Asia Pacific Programme in the first half of 2015.

Subsequently, the Steering Committee of the Asia Pacific programme, which convened in January 2015, decided on format (international academic conference) and timing (early June).

The objective of the conference will be two-fold: to exchange research findings and thinking around democratisation, and to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue on process/actor-oriented, conceptual, and methodological issues in the context of the Asia Pacific as well as all regions of the Global Campus.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite the submission of **abstracts** (ca. 250 words) by one or two academics from each regional Master’s program **by 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2015**, on a topic that speaks to the following themes:

- Regional institutional architecture and ‘culture’ of democracy. At issue here is the differing institutional design of individual countries in a (sub-) regional context and the implications in bringing the generic idea of democracy into real practice of government on the one hand, and how this influences and is influenced by deepening political integration at the (sub-)regional level.
- Trans-national processes that promote, protect or obstruct democratisation in the Asia Pacific and other regions. This can include human rights which may be used in the promotion and protection of democracy at a national and regional level.

- Methodological issues and challenges in researching democratisation that legal and social science perspectives bring separately and also combined (interdisciplinary approach). In allowing mutual understanding of different democratic systems and cultures, the institutional set up and socio-cultural embeddedness of democracy may best be approached from a context-specific analysis, i.e. grounded in the country-specific experience. In this regard, the idea of contextual research on democracy is important to explore and to share.
- Teaching democracy. One of the challenges is to reconcile the teaching of democracy as an academic exercise with the practical needs of democracy activists and practitioners. This also includes the process of collective learning and mutual learning among the countries in each region, as well as the emergence of a knowledge hub to harness the learning process.

**Full paper drafts are to be submitted by 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.**

**Please submit your abstract and drafts to: [mhrd.admin@sydney.edu.au](mailto:mhrd.admin@sydney.edu.au)**