

The background is a solid dark blue. On the left side, there are several overlapping geometric shapes: a large yellow parallelogram, a smaller red parallelogram above it, and a light blue parallelogram to the left of the yellow one. Several thin, parallel lines in light blue and purple run diagonally across the page, intersecting the shapes. In the lower right quadrant, the text 'WEISER CENTER FOR EMERGING DEMOCRACIES' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

**WEISER CENTER FOR  
EMERGING DEMOCRACIES**

# WEISER CENTER FOR EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

From the Director

Not only is it hard to summarize the 2020-21 academic year; it is hard even to look back on it. Our center and our university were shuttered for in-person events due to the lingering and devastating global coronavirus pandemic. To make matters worse, worldwide processes of democratic backsliding and erosion kept gathering steam. America itself was anything but immune to this global trend. The integrity of our presidential elections was falsely impugned by the outgoing president, who then instigated a violent assault on our nation's Capitol in a last-ditch effort to interrupt a constitutional transfer of office and to retain power for himself. In tandem with dramatically downward trajectories for rights and freedoms in places ranging from Belarus and Hungary to Hong Kong and Myanmar, and from India and Ethiopia to Nicaragua and Brazil, it was truly an *annus horribilis* for global democracy as well as for global public health.

At WCED, we are committed to pushing back against these negative trends with every resource at our disposal. Even while doing our small part to help contain COVID-19 by keeping all our events fully virtual, we continued to advance our understanding of democratic emergence and its many opposites, including democratic backsliding. As ever, we did this collective work through our three core activities: events, publications, and fellowships.

While virtual, our 2020-21 calendar was packed with events that spoke to major challenges of the moment. We introduced a new flashpoint series to gather experts to discuss unfolding crises in Belarus, Hong Kong, and Lebanon. We hosted public talks on autocratic courts in Africa, the use of repression in both authoritarian regimes and democracies, and global varieties of populism. In the wake of January's contested transfer of power, we arranged a conversation between Hahrie Han (Johns Hopkins) and Michael McFaul

(Stanford) on the theme of reviving democracy, globally and locally. We then redoubled our focus on local threats to democracy in our emergency roundtable this spring on submerging democracy in America's states: an issue that will surely continue to command our attention in the year to come, especially as it unfolds right here in Michigan.

One of our innovations over the past few years has been to pair major public roundtables with thematic issues of *Democracy & Autocracy*, the official newsletter of the American Political Science Association's eponymous organized section, which we now publish here at WCED (along with our rapidly growing WCED book series at the University of Michigan Press, with nine published and forthcoming titles). We organized one roundtable and subsequent newsletter on democratic survival in the Muslim world, and another on the challenges of constraining presidents in democratic and authoritarian regimes alike. As with almost all of our events, these roundtables bring leading experts to Michigan—even if lately only on Zoom—for in-depth conversations with our own faculty and WCED fellows. A silver lining of the virtual format is that we recorded all our public events, and you can watch any you missed (or re-watch any you especially enjoyed) on our YouTube channel.

As always, the people we bring together are the best part of WCED, and the support we offer their research on democracy and authoritarianism is the most important thing we do. In response to our global health crisis, we focused our faculty research fellowships on COVID-19, funding one project on vaccine hesitancy and rising distrust of democracy in the wake of the pandemic, and another on how the virus has been politically weaponized by the Orban regime in Hungary. Our core roster of four postdoctoral fellows continued their remarkable research projects under the extreme duress of being unable to



travel internationally or even work in an office. Graduate students continued to apply for funds from across the university to do path-breaking research even under travel constraints, and we funded them at unprecedented levels. Our incoming cast of WCED graduate fellows came from all over the world, even if many of them couldn't come to the United States yet. I urge you to read more about all these amazing young scholars and the work they do in the report that follows.

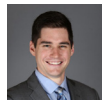
We hope that you and your loved ones all stayed healthy over the past year. Fingers crossed, we will be able to welcome you all back safely to Weiser Hall this coming fall. It has been far too long, and we have so much urgent work to do together. The stakes for democracy both at home and globally could not be higher.

**Dan Slater**

Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professor of Emerging Democracies  
WCED Director

## Emerging Democracies Postdoctoral Fellows

*Awarded to postdoctoral scholars in support of research on the broad historical, political, economic, and societal conditions under which democracies emerge—and autocracies endure. Fellows focus on their own research, participate in WCED workshops and events, and present one public lecture during their fellowship, while in residence at U-M.*



**Matthew Cebul** (2019-21), PhD Political Science, Yale University. "Repression and Rebellion in the Shadow of Foreign Intervention."



**Marília Corrêa** (2019-21), PhD History, University of Illinois. "Military Outcasts: Expelled Servicemen, Dictatorship, Gender, and Trauma in Brazil."



**Jundai Liu** (2019-21), PhD Sociology, Harvard University. "Claiming Legitimacy and Building Solidarity: Chinese Veterans' Political Participation under Regime Control."



**Brendan McElroy** (2020-22), PhD Government, Harvard University. "Representative Traditions and the Resilience of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe."

## WCED Research Fellows

*Awarded to scholars engaged in researching emerging democracies and engaged in WCED activities.*

**Adam E. Casey**, WCED Research Fellow, 2020-21.

## WCED Graduate Student Fellows

*Awarded to U-M students who focus their work around the theme of emerging democracies past or present.*

**Syamsul Bahri**, MA MIRS-Southeast Asian Studies. Origins, breakdown, and the future of social and political institutions in Southeast Asia, through the lenses of elite theory and institutionalism.

**Sujin Cha**, PhD Political Science. The interaction of domestic politics and international economic dynamics such as trade, investment, and foreign aid; political preferences and behaviors of firms and individuals under emerging markets and non-liberal regimes.

**Omar Masood**, MA MIRS-Islamic Studies. Women and gender in Islam and the education of Syrian refugee children.

**Swagat Pani**, PhD Anthropology/History. Anthropology and history of navigation, smuggling, and questions of sovereignty, international law, infrastructures, and technopolitics in and around the Indian Ocean rim.

**Henrique Pedrazza Kopitke**, PhD Sociology. Populism, democracy, and social movements.

**I-Lun Shih**, PhD Sociology. Political sociology, political economy of development, economic sociology, and historical sociology; political origins of financial institutions in Hong Kong.

**Max Shpilband**, MA MIRS-Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies/MPP Public Policy. Data-driven social research to promote equitable economic development and democratic institutions.

## WCED Student Associates

*WCED Student Associates are past graduate fellows invited to continue as mentors for the incoming cohort and actively contribute to the WCED community of scholars.*

**Jeremy Boo**, PhD Political Science. **Cem Emrence**, PhD Political Science. **Adelina Pinzaru**, PhD Asian Languages and Cultures.

## WCED Visiting Associates

*WCED Visiting Associates are invited to be part of the center's academic community during their time at U-M. This diverse group of interdisciplinary scholars come from different regions of the world and offer invaluable expertise on emerging democracy and authoritarianism in their home countries and beyond. They actively participate in WCED events, workshops, and networking opportunities.*

**Natalia Forrat**, University of Michigan. **Hanisah Binte Abdullah Sani**, National University of Singapore.

## WCED Faculty Grants

*Awarded to U-M faculty for research projects that address themes related to democracy, broadly understood.*

**Allen Hicken**, Political Science; **Pauline Jones**, Political Science; and **Laura Rozek**, Public Health. "COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Effects on Trust and Democracy."

**Krisztina Fehérváry**, Anthropology. "National Consultation on the Coronavirus: The Fidesz Poster Campaign and the Renewal of Authoritarian Politics in Hungary in the Age of COVID-19."

## WCED Graduate Student Research Grants

*Awarded to U-M graduate students for research projects related to authoritarianism and democracy, broadly understood.*

**Paul Atwell**, Political Science/Public Policy. "Symbolism, Psychology, and Identity in African Political Campaigns."

**Mitchell Bosley**, Political Science, and **Htet Thiha Zaw**, Political Science. "Institutional Evolution in Colonial Lawmaking: Learning from the British India Legislature, 1916-1945."

**Eimeel Castillo**, History. "Imperial Encounters: Gender Politics in U.S. Occupied Nicaragua (1912-1933)."

**Daniel Varela Corredor**, Anthropology/History. "A Mining-Democracy Experiment? Arrangements between Corporations, State, and Peasant-Miners under Black Sovereignty in Chocó, Colombia (1886-1935)."

**Jun Fang**, Political Science. "Where Foreign and Domestic Muslims Come Together: How Global Trade Shapes China's Local Handling of Ethnic Diversity."

**Félix Zamora Gómez**, Romance Languages and Literatures. "Modernity, Desert, and Colonization: Unraveling the Genealogies of the Environmental Discourse and the Territorial Imaginaries of Francoist Spain."

**Anil Menon**, Political Science. "Refugees and the Radical Right."

**Genta Nishku**, Comparative Literature. “Developments in Memory Politics after 1989 in Albania and the Former Yugoslavia.”

**Fabricio Vasselai**, Political Science/Scientific Computing. “Why So Many Votes? Bandwagon Voting in Dominated Elections.”

**Rebecca Wai**, Political Science. “Integrating Migrants into Democratic Institutions of Water Distribution in India.”

**Zoe Walker**, Political Science. “The Effect of Protest Activity on Support for Social Movements.”

**Anonymous**, History. “Can the Subaltern Sue? Native Litigation, Imperial Sovereignty, and the Making of the Colonial Legal Regime in an Asian Oil Frontier.”

## WCED Publications

### **Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter**

Democracy and Autocracy is the official newsletter of the American Political Science Association’s Democracy and Autocracy section. Dan Slater and Rob Mickey are executive editors.

“Constraining Presidents,” (Vol. 19[1], April 2021). **Allen Hicken** (U-M), editor.

“Democratic Survival in the Muslim World,” (Vol. 18[3], December 2020). **Pauline Jones** (U-M) and **Hanisah Binte Abdullah Sani** (National University of Singapore), editors.

“Economic Shocks and Authoritarian Stability,” (Vol. 18[2], June 2020). **Natalia Forrat** (U-M), editor.

“Is Democracy Promotion Dead?” (Vol. 18[1], February 2020). **Matthew Cebul** (U-M), editor.

### **WCED Book Series**

The Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Series publishes cutting-edge research in the pivotal field of authoritarianism and democratization studies at the University of Michigan Press. The following titles were published in 2019-21.

**Herron, Erik.** *Normalizing Corruption: Failures of Accountability in Ukraine.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2020.

**Lupu, Noam, Virginia Oliveros, and Luis Schiumerini,** eds. *Campaigns and Voters in Developing Democracies: Argentina in Comparative Perspective.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2019.

**Shair-Rosenfield, Sarah.** *Electoral Reform and the Fate of New Democracies: Lessons from the Indonesian Case.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2019.

**Shih, Victor C.,** ed. *Economic Shocks and Authoritarian Stability: Duration, Financial Control, and Institutions.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2020.

**Sinpeng, Aim.** *Opposing Democracy in the Digital Age: The Yellow Shirts in Thailand.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2021.

## WCED Faculty news

### **Books**

The following books by faculty affiliated with WCED were published in 2020-21.

**John Ciorciari**, Public Policy. *Sovereignty Sharing in Fragile States* (Stanford UP, 2021). **Ken Kollman**, Political Science. *Dynamic Partisanship: How and Why Voter Loyalties Change*, w/ John E. Jackson (U of Chicago Press, 2021). **Mark Tessler**, Political Science. *Religious Minorities in Non-Secular Middle Eastern and North African States* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2020).

### **Grants, Awards, & Promotions**

The following are significant accomplishments in 2020-21 reported by faculty affiliated with WCED.

**Mai Hassan**, Political Science. Foreign Affairs Best Book of 2020 award for *Regime Threats and State Solutions: Bureaucratic Loyalty and Embeddedness in Kenya* (Cambridge UP, 2020). **Anne Pitcher**, Afroamerican & African Studies/Political Science. Carnegie Corporation of New York grant for the project “ObSERV: The Observation of Subnational Election-Related Violence and Security in Africa,” w/ G. Masterson and R. Alence, 2020. **Cindy Schipani**, Business. Academy of Legal Studies in Business Career Achievement Award, 2020. U-M Ross School of Business Senior Faculty Award for Research Excellence, 2020.

## WCED 2020-21 EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**Sep 8 WCED Panel.** “Flashpoint: Belarus.” Moderator: **Dan Slater**, WCED Director. Panelists: **Adam E. Casey**, WCED Research Fellow, U-M; **Sasha de Vogel**, U-M; **Natalia Forrat**, WCED Postdoctoral Fellow (2018-20), U-M. Co-sponsor: CREES.

**Sep 22 WCED Panel.** “Democratic Survival in the Muslim World.” Moderator: **Hanisah Binte Abdullah Sani**, National University of Singapore. Panelists: **Jaimie Bleck**, University of Notre Dame; **Lily Zubaidah Rahim**, Georgetown University; **Mark Tessler**, U-M; **Şebnem Yardımcı-Geyikçi**, Hacettepe University. Co-sponsors: ASC, DISC, GISC, CMENAS, CSEAS.

### OCTOBER

**Oct 6 WCED Panel.** “Flashpoint: Lebanon.” Moderator: **Matthew Cebul**, WCED Postdoctoral Fellow, U-M. Panelists: **Jean Lachapelle**, University of Gothenburg; **Lama Mourad**, Carleton University; **Sarah Parkinson**, Johns Hopkins University; **Christiana Parreira**, Princeton University. Co-sponsors: CMENAS, GISC.

**Oct 20 WCED Panel.** “Flashpoint: Hong Kong.” Moderator: **Jundai Liu**, WCED Postdoctoral Fellow, U-M. Panelists: **Mary Gallagher**, U-M; **Nicholas Howson**, U-M; **Xiaohong Xu**, U-M; **Samson Yuen**, Hong Kong Baptist University. Co-sponsor: LRCCS.

## NOVEMBER

Nov 10 WCED Panel. "Constraining Presidents." Moderator: **Allen Hicken**, U-M. Panelists: **Julia Azari**, Marquette University; **William Howell**, University of Chicago; **Kenneth Lowande**, U-M; **Anne Meng**, University of Virginia; **Ken Opalo**, Georgetown University.

## JANUARY

Jan 26 WCED Lecture. "Starting, Stopping, and Restarting State Repression: An Analysis of Spells." **Christian Davenport**, U-M.

## FEBRUARY

Feb 23 WCED Lecture. "Undue Process: Persecution and Punishment in Autocratic Courts." **Fiona Shen-Bayh**, College of William & Mary. Co-sponsor: ASC.

## MARCH

Mar 9 WCED Lecture. "Reviving Democracy, Globally and Locally." **Hahrie Han**, Johns Hopkins University; **Amb. Michael McFaul**, Stanford University; **Dan Slater**, WCED Director, U-M. Co-sponsor: CREES.

Mar 30 WCED Lecture. "Varieties of Populists: Paths to Power and Implications for Regime Stability." **Pauline Jones**, U-M; **Anil Menon**, U-M.

## APRIL

Apr 6 WCED Panel. "Submerging Democracy in America's States: An Emergency Roundtable." **Jenna Bednar**, U-M; **Alexandra Filindra**, University of Illinois, Chicago; **Jake Grumbach**, University of Washington; **Danielle McGuire**, author; **Robert Mickey**, U-M.

### Acronym Key:

**ASC** – African Studies Center

**CMENAS** – Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies

**CREES** – Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies

**CSEAS** – Center for Southeast Asian Studies

**DISC** – Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum

**GISC** – Global Islamic Studies Center

**LRCCS** – Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies

**WCED** – Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies



## WCED SUPPORT

*We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions to WCED in 2020.*

### **Ronald & Eileen Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Strategic Fund**

Gifts totaling \$1,000,000

### **Weiser Family Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund**

Gifts totaling \$35,666.67

### **Weiser Hall Living Wall Biofilter**

Gifts totaling \$88,000

*In accordance with guidance from the Office of University Development, we are no longer including donor honor rolls in our publications. The donations noted above support the critical work of WCED, and directly support student and scholar research.*

## GOVERNANCE

### **WCED Steering Committee**

**Michelle Bellino**, Education

**Joshua Cole**, History

**Mary Gallagher**, Political Science

**Fatma Müge Göçek**, Sociology/Women's Studies

**Allen Hicken**, Political Science

**Mike McGovern**, Anthropology

**Dan Slater**, WCED Director, Political Science

### **WCED Policy Board**

**Michael S. Barr**, Roy F. and Jean Humphrey Proffitt Professor of Law; Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

**Elizabeth Weiser Caswell**, Research Committee, JDRF International; Executive Committee, JDRF Detroit-Southeast Michigan

**Anne Curzan**, Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature, Linguistics, and Education; Arthur F. Thurnau Professor; Dean, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

**Paul R. Dimond**, Senior Counsel, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.

**Daniel Fried**, Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council; Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, 2005-09; U.S. Ambassador to Poland, 1997-2000

**Mary Gallagher**, Amy and Alan Lowenstein Professor in Democracy, Democratization, and Human Rights; Professor of Political Science; Director, International Institute

**Terrence J. McDonald**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History; Director, Bentley Historical Library

**Dan Slater**, Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professor of Emerging Democracies; Professor of Political Science; Director, WCED

**Ronald N. Weiser**, U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, 2001-04; Founder and Former Chairman and CEO, McKinley Associates Inc.; Regent, University of Michigan

**Damon Wilson**, President and CEO, National Endowment for Democracy

**Geneviève Zubrzycki**, Professor of Sociology; Director, WCEE