



European Union Centre of Excellence Lecture Series

The EU Democratization Efforts in the Middle East and North Africa



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**10:30am-12:00pm, Wednesday August 12, 2015
Sedgewick C168**

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For a long time, democratization in third countries has been on the agenda of Western powers such as the European Union (EU). However, while it was more successful with Central and Eastern European countries, democratization has had limited results in countries further east and in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The Arab Spring events opened a new reality highlighting the diversity in the region. While some countries liberalized, others were either not affected at all or even strengthened the authoritarian grip of the regime. Even those countries that went through the Arab Spring ended up differently. The current increased political instability in various MENA countries show the inability of the EU and other international actors not only in the democratization process but also in stabilizing the neighbourhood. The only Arab Spring country that seems to be on right track with respect to democratic transition is Tunisia at the moment.

This talk will discuss the following questions: Despite the EU democratization policies in the MENA, why have we seen a different outcome in the various countries? Why the democratic support has resulted in a limited success? And do we see a change following the Arab Spring events? Dandashly argues that the diversity in the outcome is the result of the interaction between Western linkages and domestic politics and the existence of domestic veto players.



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