Monday 30 September 2013

Litteraturhuset, Bergen
Programme

09:00 Registration and coffee

09:30 Opening and welcome; Music by Tomine Mikkeline Eide

Part I Why new constitutions now? Does the context matter?

10:00 Xenophon Contiades (Director, Centre for European Constitutional Law)

10:30 Panel discussion: Why a new constitution? Why now? What are contested issues? Who are involved?
Constitution-makers/politicians: Xenophon Contiades (Director, Centre for European Constitutional Law), Valgerður Bjarnadóttir (Iceland), Stephen Noon (Scotland), Carl I. Hagen (Norway)
Analysts: Ragnhildur Helgadóttir (Reykjavík Univ), Alan Trench (University of Ulster), John O’Dowd (Univ. College Dublin), Eirik Holmøyvik (University of Bergen)

12:00 Lunch & music: Alf Johannes Agcaoili Borge and Eirik Minde, Kameleonorkesteret

12:45 Break out session: What is the best way to make a constitution? Who should participate, How? And Why?

13:30 Presentation of alternative Norwegian constitutional amendment

Part II Does it matter how – and by whom – constitutions are made?

14:00 Zachary Elkins (Director of Comparative Constitutions Project)

14:30 Panel discussion
Constitution-makers/politicians: Valgerður Bjarnadóttir (Iceland), Stephen Noon (Scotland), Carl I. Hagen (Norway)
Analysts: Ragnhildur Helgadóttir (Reykjavík Univ), Alan Trench (University of Ulster), John O’Dowd (Univ. College Dublin), Eirik Holmøyvik (University of Bergen)

16:00 Closing
Participants

**Xenophon Contiades** is Professor of Public Law, Dean of the School for Social Sciences of the University of Peloponnese and Managing Director of the Centre for European Constitutional Law (Themistokles and Dimitris Tsatsos Foundation). He is lawyer at the Supreme Court and member of the Athens Bar Association. Recent publications include: *Constitutions in the Global Financial Crisis. a comparative analysis* (Ashgate, 2013) and *Engineering Constitutional Change. A Comparative Perspective on Europe, Canada and the USA* (Routledge, 2012).

**Zachary Elkins** is Associate Professor in the Department of Government, University of Texas at Austin, and co-directs (with Tom Ginsburg) the Comparative Constitutions Project (a NSF-funded initiative to understand the causes and consequences of constitutional choices) and the website constitutionmaking.org (which provides resources and analysis for constitutional drafters in new democracies). He is currently completing a book manuscript, *Designed by Diffusion: Constitutional Reform in Developing Democracies*, which examines the design and diffusion of democratic institutions. Publications include *The Endurance of National Constitutions* (Cambridge University Press 2009).

**Alan Trench** (Scotland) is Professor of Politics at the University of Ulster. He has also worked at the Constitution Unit at University College London and the University of Edinburgh. He is working on the Institute of Public Policy Research’s 'Devo More' project, looking at options for enhanced devolution within the UK, and is specialist adviser to the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee.

**Stephen Noon** (Scotland) was between 2007 and 2010 a senior Special Adviser to the First Minister in the Scottish Government with responsibility for policy across departments. For the 2007 and 2011 Scottish elections he was a member of the SNP’s Campaign Committee, with responsibility for message and policy development. He is currently Chief Strategist for Yes Scotland, the campaign for an independent Scotland, and is also undertaking a part-time PhD in EU Law at Edinburgh University.

**Ragnhildur Helgadóttir** (Iceland) earned her law degree from the University of Iceland and her LL.M and doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia. She is professor of law at Reykjavik University and has published in the fields of constitutional and administrative law, social security law and legal history. She has advised Alþingi on a number of constitutional issues and advised the constitutional council in Iceland in 2011.

**Valgerður Bjarnadóttir** (Iceland) Member of the Icelandic parliament. Valgerður Bjarnadóttir is an economist by training. Member of parliament for the Social Democratic Alliance since 2009. Member of the Constitutional and supervisory Committee, chairman 2011 – 2013, have sat on several other committees in parliament. Lived and worked in Belgium 1986 – 2001. First in the private sector but from 1992 – 2001 as an international civil servant for EFTA (European Free Trade Organisation). Employed by the University hospital of Iceland 2001 – 2009 when elected to parliament.
**John O´Dowd** (Ireland), University college of Dublin, School of law. John O´Dowd has lectured law at UCD, of which he is a graduate, since 1991. He was called to the Bar of Ireland in 1990. He is a member of the European Group of Public Law and former members of the executive of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and of the Irish Association of Law Teachers.

**Eirik Holmøyvik** (Norway), Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Bergen. Eirik Holmøyvik research and teach in constitutional law and legal history. He is the author of "Maktfordeling og 1814" (2012), an in-depth study of the separation of powers in the Norwegian 1814-constitution. He is also the editor of two forthcoming books on the Norwegian constitution, one on constitutional interpretation (Tolkingar av Grunnlova. Om forfatningsutviklinga 1814-2014, Pax forlag 2013), and the other on the constitutional text's origins and context (Textualizing Democracy, Berghahn Books 2014). In 2012 he was appointed by the Norwegian Parliament as a member of an expert committee to modernise the Constitutions language. The amendment proposal is due to be decided in 2014.

**Carl I. Hagen** (Norway) Carl I. Hagen is a Norwegian politician. He is former leader of The Progress Party ("Fremskrittspartiet") and was member of parliament for 32 years. He was for 16 years a member of the parliamentary committee dealing with constitutional amendments. He is currently member of Oslo city council. Hagen was member of the committee making recommendations for a revision of the Norwegian constitution.