Institutions in Context: Dictatorship and Democracy

4-10 June, 2012

Tampere, Finland

Call for Papers

The University of Tampere is delighted to invite Masters and doctoral students of all appropriate fields and disciplines to participate in a weeklong workshop on Democracy and Dictatorship Institutions. The workshop is organized and hosted by the North American Studies Program and funded by the Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together a diverse group of leading scholars* from Europe and North America – including political scientists, economists, historians, sociologists, and philosophers – to discuss what constitutes dictatorship and what constitutes democracy from all angles. The theme of the workshop is broad to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to major institutional questions involved in government institutions and their effects. Issues include the potential effects of various types of dictatorial versus democratic rule upon the economy, upon the population itself, and internationally. A key element will approach the contrasting roles of the welfare state in perceptions of democracy.

Part of each day will be devoted to speaker presentations. The other part is devoted to student presentations to give the students opportunities for comments and suggestions from the scholars and their peers.

Room and board is covered for all students. For U.S. and Canada based students we will also provide a stipend of €1100 which can be used to cover travel expenses. (Europe and Nordic/Baltic based students, please inquire regarding the travel stipend.) For Finnish students we will cover domestic travel at the lowest cost rates. The deadline for applications is the 18th of April 2012. More information and the application form are available at the following link:


Applicants should send the application form and the listed documents and abstract to katri.sieberg@uta.fi

* Speakers: Roderick Kiewiet, Caltech; Norman Schofield, Washington University Saint Louis; Krista Varantola, University of Tampere; Charles Noussair, Tilburg University; Minna Harjula, University of Tampere; Juhani Lehto, University of Tampere; Vello Pettai, University of Tartu; Eva-Clarita Pettai, University of Tartu; Hannu Nurmi, University of Turku; Pertti Koistinen, University of Tampere; Olga Shvetsova, Binghamton University; Tuomo Melasuo, University of Tampere; Milan Svolik, University of Illinois; Marjaana Niemi, University of Tampere; Maria Maunula, University of Turku; Kaisa Herne, University of Turku; Jonathan Krasno, Binghamton University, William Heller, Binghamton University; Aki Lehtinen, University of Helsinki; Robert Forbes, University of California, Irvine; Gianluca Grimalda, Jaume I University Campus del Riu