

CORD CAPE TOWN WORKSHOP

May 8th – 13th, 2014



*Sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
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CORDNETWORK

COLLABORATION FOR RESEARCH ON DEMOCRACY

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Background of CORD

The idea for the Collaboration for Research on Democracy (CORD) network initially emerged in 2011, following the completion of ten years of work by the Citizenship DRC, which sought to understand the importance of citizen engagement for pro-poor development and democracy. CORD consists of members from the previous Citizenship DRC network as well as a variety of new members from countries including Egypt, Uganda, Peru, Ecuador and Sri Lanka. More established members come from Brazil, Bangladesh, Canada, India, South Africa and the UK.

Workshop Overview & Rationale

The CORD Cape Town workshop took place over a period of five days, beginning on Friday, May 9th 2014 and ending on Tuesday, May 13th 2014. IDRC has generously financed three of CORD's major workshops including the first in Toronto in May 2012, the second in Delhi in December 2012 (TTI Matching Funds grant) and, most recently, in Cape Town in May 2014 (TTI Matching Funds Follow-up grant).

The main focus of the May 2014 workshop in Cape Town was to develop greater clarity around CORD's governance and mission, while integrating new TTI partners into new and existing activities of the network's working groups. Current CORD working groups include:

1. Knowledge, Technology and Democracy
2. Activists, Institutions and Change
3. Economic and Political Citizenship
4. Marginalization and Social Service Provision
5. Urban Peace Building

The newly solidified mission of the network is ***“to contribute to inclusive citizenship and democratic governance through collaborative, applied research.”***

Workshop Attendees

1	Vera Coelho Shattan	CEBRAP (Sao Paulo, Brazil)
2	Laura Waisbich	CEBRAP (Sao Paulo, Brazil)
3	Shylashri Shankar	CPR (Delhi, India)
4	Ranjita Mohanty	India
5	Becky Hillyer	IDS (Brighton, UK)
6	Leslie Chan	UTSC (Toronto)
7	Bettina von Lieres	UTSC (Toronto)
8	Paul Kingston	UTSC (Toronto)
9	Roberta Rice	UTSC (Toronto)
10	Alison Mathie	COADY Institute
11	Dr. Ronald Naluwairo	ACODE (Entebbe, Uganda)
12	Godber Tumushabe	ACODE (Entebbe, Uganda)
13	Claire Benit-Gbaffou	University of Wit. (Johannesbourg)
14	Priyanthi Fernando	CEPA (Columbo, Sri Lanka)
15	Nayana Godamune	CEPA (Columbo, Sri Lanka)

16	Luis Fierro	Grupo FARO (Quito, Ecuador)
17	Hani Morsi	IDS (Brighton, UK)
18	Laurence Piper	University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
19	Andrew Charman	SLF (Cape Town)
20	Joanna Wheeler	Cape Town, South Africa
21	Steven Robins	Cape Town, South Africa
22	Taabo Mugume	University of the Western Cape (South Africa)

Summary of Workshop Goals & Activities

The core goals and activities of the Cape Town workshop were as follows:

1. To co-design and solidify CORD’s mission statement and approach to working as a network
2. To present CORD’s newly designed e-platform, through which the network can now host e-dialogues between workshops as well as provide a space for CORD working groups to collaborate (www.cordnetwork.org)
3. To re-visit the question of CORD’s governing structures, including criteria for new membership and the selection of a new Coordinator for the next two years
4. To share and seek feedback on research methodologies used by CORD members
5. To develop new milestones and action items for each of CORD’s Working Groups, including the development of grant proposals, as necessary
6. To integrate visiting TTI partners into the network and to develop priorities for ways of working collaboratively

Workshop Methodology & Approach

As a network studying themes of democracy and citizenship around the world, CORD values modes of collaboration that are horizontal and participatory in their approach, and which seek to include the voices of all members present. With this in mind, some of the ways of working throughout the workshop included:

- “Low-tech” wikis, to co-design CORD’s mission statement and values as a network
- Online etherpad applications during working-group discussions, so that all members could work collectively to contribute to the same online document.
- The interactive sharing of research methods and best practices through powerpoint and video presentations, followed by a question and answer period for the larger group
- Small and large group discussions on what it means to be a “Citizen” of CORD, and how this should impact our activities and ways of working
- An informal networking event with local organisations in Cape Town, to strengthen CORD’s international identity and reach as a network

Participant Comments & Suggestions

Overall, participants provided very positive feedback about the structure, content and benefits of the workshop.

During the weeks and months prior to the event, there was some degree of apprehension about how new TTI partners may feel joining a network in which existing members already have a strong history of working together over the past two years or longer. Understanding this potential barrier, the CORD steering committee designed the agenda and activities in such a way that we hoped TTI partners would feel as though they had an equal voice in co-designing the upcoming actions plans and governance structures for the network. For instance, the construction of CORD's mission statement and ways of working was facilitated to be as participatory as possible. Overall, we received very positive feedback from TTI partners about their first experience as part of the network, and all have expressed an interest in continuing to participate in upcoming meetings and working-group activities. The next step for further engaging TTI partners will be to involve them more as members of CORD's Steering Committee and in the design of future workshop agendas.

Participants also relayed that they received considerable value through the 1) sharing of various research methods and 2) engagement with CORD's new platform as a tool to work together across distances. Both of these aspects are something that CORD hopes to continue to develop over the coming year.

Some participants also provided feedback about aspects that might improved to make the limited time together more constructive for everyone involved. For instance, while there was a focus on collaboration and co-construction of agendas for each of the working groups, participants felt that it might be useful (particularly for the benefit of new members) to spend more time on discussions of individual working priorities and research interests. This could have led to a better understanding of each individual working backgrounds as well as where priorities may overlap.

In addition, participants felt that it would have been useful to record parts of the workshop (including the methodology-sharing session) for future reference and for dissemination to a wider audience, including through CORD's website.

Potential for Scaling up the activities and ways of working

The horizontal approach to communication, research and collaboration is likely the most defining characteristic of CORD, as a network. Since CORD works with members from around the world with various skill-sets, priorities and ways of working, it is very important to use methods for collaboration that seek to bring out individual strengths. Thus, we have found that participatory methods for engagement and collaboration are often the most affective tools to use within this context.

Indeed – methods and activities such as the “low-tech wikis,” the sharing of individual research methods and the use of etherpad applications for writing documents collectively are all important for ensuring that everyone feels that his or her voice is heard and valued.

The extent to which these methods can be scaled up, however, may be limited, as full participation tends to require more time than other, more top-down approaches. Thus, CORD's tendency to invite 20 to 30 workshop participants seems ideal for this type of collaboration.

Annex 1 – Workshop Agenda

CORD Cape Town Workshop Programme May 8 – 13, 2014

Agenda Updated: April 30, 2014



Arrival in Cape Town, May 8th

9am – 5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most guests arrive in Cape Town and will be picked-up by an AWOL representative at the airport • Check-in at the Hotel Graeme in Sea Point, Cape Town 	
DINNER 7:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guests should meet in the lobby of the Hotel Graeme to go for dinner • 	<i>Local restaurant</i>

Day 1: Friday May 9th

<p>Morning Session 9am – 1pm</p> <p><i>At Breakwater Lodge</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, introduction and background of CORD • Framing of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ What are you hoping to take away from this meeting for your future work? • Reporting and reflection by working groups on what has been done up to this point in terms of : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. research themes, 2. stakeholder and policy engagement; including input from new delegates on relevant work 3. value of international collaboration 4. mediation group to provide brief report-back on their book 	<p><i>Facilitated by Laurence Piper</i></p> <p><i>Key Documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop agenda • CORD workshop proposal document
LUNCH 1pm – 2pm	Lunch will take place at the conference venue	
<p>Afternoon Session 2pm – 4:30pm</p> <p><i>Breakwater Lodge</i></p>	<p>Engagement with the value and role of CORD (what does it mean to be a citizen of CORD?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key substantive focus & positions on methodology and policy components to the collaboration • Proposed governance structures of the network 	<p><i>Facilitated by Joanna Wheeler</i></p> <p><i>Key Documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CORD Mission Statement and Governance document
Evening	<p>Networking Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informal event with the intent of getting to know each other as well as other relevant Cape Town 	<p>(PLAAS, SJC, APC, CDRA, the Safety Lab, Sonke) 6</p>

	organisations	<i>Bettina von Lieres to introduce CORD</i>
Day 2: Saturday May 10th		
Morning Session 9 am – 1pm <i>Breakwater Lodge</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap of discussions from the previous day Working groups meet to develop their own agendas for 2014-2015 as planned, but with a focus on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How their area of work relates to the overarching question from Day 1 How they will engage with policy/practice What methods they will use for collaboration Innovative methods for research Ideas for concrete project proposal <p>Working groups currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marginality & health Economic & political citizenship Knowledge & Democracy Urban Violence 	<i>To be facilitated by Shylashri Shankar</i>
LUNCH 1pm – 2pm	Working lunch at the workshop venue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the CORD website so far; contributions for how it can be used and developed, planning for the next e-conference 	
Afternoon Session 2pm – 5pm <i>Breakwater Lodge</i>	2pm – 3:30 pm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working groups continue to meet 3:30 – 5:00: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back on plans, including the four points above and at least one concrete project proposal 	<i>To be facilitated by Shylashri Shankar</i>
DINNER <i>Time TBD</i>	Meet in the lobby of Hotel Graeme	Waterfront restaurant
Day 3: Sunday May 11th		
All-day Networking & Sightseeing	2 of 3 options depending on weather, etc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robben Island Table Mountain Gospel choirs in Masipumelele 	Individual choice for lunch and dinner; cash stipend to be provided
Day 4: Monday May 12th		
Morning Session 9am – 1pm	Feedback and sharing on research and engagement methodologies (Vera, Shylashri, Joanna, Andrew) <p><i>How do methodologies lead to engagement or open up engagement?</i></p>	<i>Facilitated by Leslie & Bettina</i>

LUNCH 1pm – 2pm	Working lunch at the workshop venue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the CORD website so far; contributions for how it can be used and developed, planning for the next e-conference 	
Afternoon Session 2pm – 5:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on CORD Governance & Fundraising (need to prioritise funding for next network meeting and funding for a coordinator) 	Facilitated by Joanna & Laurence
DINNER 7pm – 9pm	Meet in the lobby of Hotel Graeme at 6:30pm	Noon Gun Tearoom
Day 5: Tuesday May 13th		
Morning Session: 9am – 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out of the Hotel Graeme by 11am (bags can be left at the front desk) • Summary and evaluation of the week – what has been discussed this week, what are the next steps? • Individual evaluation of the workshop • Create funding proposal outlines, if time allows • Wrap-up and goodbye 	Bettina & Ranjita
LUNCH	Lunch will take place at the conference venue	
Afternoon/ evening	Most participants fly home	

Annex 2 – Draft Mission Statement & Governance Proposals

Draft Mission Statement Proposed Governance Arrangements Network Goals Proposal

[For discussion at the CORD Cape Town Workshop 9-13 May]

1. Mission Statement

The Collaboration for Research on Democracy (CORD) is a network of scholars and practitioners, mostly from the global south, committed to collaborative and applied research on questions of citizenship in democratic governance and development.

Our work is **collaborative** because we believe we can learn through horizontal knowledge sharing from our diverse contexts on the similar problems we face in a globalising age; we can generate better quality ideas through critical feedback and iteration; and working together on important issues enhances our ability to speak to important policy debates.

It is **applied** because our methodology combines research with a practice and policy agenda, and we are committed to moving beyond research for greater understanding towards forms of engagement with citizens, our colleagues, students, practitioners and policy-makers to press for effective change. This extends to using innovative methods that clearly link research and engagement goals; and exploring possibilities for wider dissemination of ideas such as shared teaching modules, policy briefs and on-line platforms.

It is **citizen-centred** because a commitment to democracy and development implies the inclusion of all in solving social challenges, and citizens are often overlooked as key actors in policy solutions. Furthermore, a citizen focus marks us as distinct from many other groups working on aspects of democracy and development.

Lastly, CORD is a **network** rather than an organisation because we want to work in flexible and relatively low-cost ways that reduce barriers to entry and enhance our sustainability. It allows opportunities for sub-groups to form and work largely autonomously, but also for the group as a whole to meet periodically to enhance critical reflection on our shared interests, incubate new ideas and inspire new action.

2. Governance arrangements

Within our overall thematic and strategic objections, CORD recognises the importance of autonomy for working groups to drive research and engagement projects, including raising their own funds to do this. At the same time we recognise the importance of meeting at least once a year if possible to reconnect, re-invigorate, reflect, re-affirm our common purpose and to develop new ideas.

To this end we propose a light touch organizational form that consists of a co-ordinator, elected for a set period, a paid administrative assistant to help facilitate the logistics of the network, and a steering committee made up of the co-ordinator, administrator and representatives from each of the working groups.

The core activities of the working groups include research and engagement projects, whereas the core activities of the steering committee includes facilitating the group meetings, facilitating communication between the working groups, and developing CORD's profile. All financial issues are linked to project specific funds, including the annual workshops, for which partner organisations are responsible, therefore CORD needs no discrete financial management system at this time.

To be discussed and agreed at Cape Town meeting:

Responsibilities of CORD members:

- Participate in CORD annual meetings
- Share experience and ideas with network through on-line platform, e-discussions, other virtual collaboration
- Develop at least one area of collaboration with other CORD member
- Maintain good communication with CORD coordinator/other CORD collaborators

Responsibilities of CORD steering committee:

- Provide strategic direction for CORD, establishing priorities and contributing to key decisions
- Contribute to overall fundraising for CORD
- Support and enable collaboration between CORD members where possible

Responsibilities of CORD coordinator:

- Providing leadership for CORD, including in key areas of activities, membership, communication, and working group inter-linkages
- Others?

Responsibilities of workshop groups:

- Develop and undertake collaborative projects including research and engagement relevant to CORD's focus areas
- Raise and manage funds for collective projects
- Share outputs of work through on-line platform and in other ways with the network

Criteria for new partners interested in joining CORD:

- What is the scope of CORD?
- Do we want to maintain or expand our current membership?
- If the latter, what should be the criteria for new partners interested in joining the network?

3. Network Goals for 2014-2015

Working group specific goals: (to be defined at Cape Town workshop)

Collective goals:

- a) Develop further the CORD a digital platform where methodologies and ideas can be shared between partners researchers, as well as new ways of engaging with policy makers and stakeholders creatively explored.
- b) Develop collectively an open-access online module informed by our research work, hosted by the Centre for Critical Development Studies at the University of Toronto, Scarborough.

Annex 3 - Activists, Institutions and Change Group, Work Plan for 2014-15

Key Words:

Activism; leadership; institutionalization; change

Group Coordinator:

Claire Bénit-Gbaffou

Group Members:

Becky Hillyer, Paul Kingston, Bettina Lieres, Ranjita Mohanti, Jackson Mugume, Laurence Piper, Roberta Rice, Joana Wheeler, Laura Waibish

Context

Broadly speaking, there is a pessimistic vision of the future of social movements and civil society activism, stating that social movements are deemed/ doomed to disappear. To be 'successful' they need to enter into the policy making arena and leave the pure contentious politics as sole mode of engagement; when they do this they lose their ability to be radical and need to compromise to 'reform' (except in revolutionary cases! Even though, movement from liberation to government leads to compromises). (*References – Max Weber, Robert Michels, see Barker's chapter 'Robert Michels and the cruel game' for some debate.*)

This group would like to study further the way activists (in CSOs, social movements or other) relate to institutions and sometimes occupy new institutional spaces (state / government, parties, other organisations) and how it changes their behavior, the way they frame their claims (or the nature of these claims), their political worldview, their ability to affect change. We hypothesize that there isn't a simple relationship between institutionalization and activism – as assumed for instance by literature on the social movement organizations (the 'cruel game' / the 'iron cage' debate[1]): there is a variety of changes that do not always fall under 'co-option/sedation' or 'victory'. We want to try and defend hope and affirm the good stories, but also analyse more deeply the differences that various forms of institutionalization makes.

It relates to the former mediation group as understanding of activism as 'in between' civil society and institutions such as state, parties, private donors. This reflection on mediation led to critically analyse what this 'in-between' space means for activists – the straddling between these political spaces and what it does to both mediators, claims, legitimacy, efficiency. 'Mediation was about 'being between'; now this is about being across' (Laurence) This reflection can possibly be taken into two directions – debate on the nature and modalities of 'institutionalisation'; debate on activists 'political subjectivities'. For now group members have expressed more interest for the first approach.

Key Questions

Three common possible sub themes/ research questions emerged from discussion between the members who were present in the team (Laurence, Claire, Roberta, Jackson – then Joanna and Becky).

1) Activism, Institutionalization and Hope

- How does institutionalization affect activism? / How can activists change institutions?
- How do activists respond to/ adapt to institutionalized context
- How do activists adapt to formal political space

2) The politics of claim making – Claims and Campaigns

- How claims are framed in various institutional/political/ local contexts.
- Instrumental framing of claims in a variety of public spaces / political audiences
- Categories / regimes of justice-injustice used to make claims

3) Representation as legitimacy rather than authorization

- Political theory does not conceptualize representation in ways that make sense in civil society contexts. How can we re-conceptualise representation and claims-to-representation in civil society contexts?

Outputs

For 2014-15, we will focus on theme 1: Activists Institutions and Hope

- End of May, 2014 – Each member will send a one-page abstract (for a paper to be drafted for the next workshop) plus one story
 - Story = story of hope (about 1000 words but can be more) – an activist who achieved an activist outcome through engaging with institutions / lessons from these engagements.
- Other possible methods & activities
 - Stories / portraits – possibly self narratives, videos, posters, etc.
 - Life histories? (reflection on political subjectivities); how one becomes an activist (Laurence and Joanna)
 - Comparative work (thinking structures, replicability, contexts)

Annex 4 - Economic and Political Citizenship, Work plan 2014-15

Key words:

Political and Economic Citizenship, local government, collectives, inclusion

Group Coordinators:

Ranjita Mohanty, Alison Mathie

Group Members:

Bettina von Lieres (UTS), Luis Fierro (GRUPO FARO), Simeen Mahmud (BRAC) and Pyranthi Fernando or a representative from CEPA, Sri Lanka; representative from ACODE, Uganda.

Context

This group is exploring the dynamic between economic and political citizenship and its relevance to understanding how institutions and citizens can support inclusive growth for sustainable development.

It explores the ways in which citizens organize to claim economic space, and how this shapes their political participation. It also explores the way in which powerful economic and political actors, often in collusion, destabilize these formations

Questions

1. How do powerful economic and political actors and institutions shape the emergence of socio-economic formations and how does this shape political participation? How do they destabilize self-organized socioeconomic formations? These questions address the concern that citizens involved in many socio-economic formations are unable to participate freely in political spaces because of interference/destabilization/ financial incentives or other forms of co-optation.
2. How do collective economic actors open up or reclaim economic space and then preserve it through political participation? This question addresses our interest in examples of self-organised socio-economic formations that have created space in the mainstream economy or offered alternatives to it that are more economically inclusive, and how that space is protected or enlarged. Examples here would be the case of the economic revenues from oil extraction in the Amazon region are redistributed via local government to local populations, and the example of local currencies and other expressions of the solidarity economy in Brazil that have shown how economic inclusion can be achieved and how that space can be expanded. It also includes the question of how to facilitate informal economic activity (as SEWA has done in India, for example)
3. How are new forms of economic citizenship being created by the state, i.e. incentives to organize as self-help groups in India?

Outputs

1. Summary of E-dialogue in June to discuss the framework for exploring these questions more deeply. (June 2014)

2. Report to CORD network and this working group of the results of the workshop on “Achieving Social Inclusion: The dynamic between economic and political citizenship” to be held at the Coady Institute at the end of June, for which CORD is partnering with IDRC, IAF, and Hivos. This report will show the complementarities and overlap between interests of the working group and the larger research initiative to be developed after the June workshop (August 2014)
3. Preliminary cases studies or background papers to cases, funding permitting, to be conducted by working group members within the next year. Individual members to seek small grants for this preliminary work. (May 2015)
4. Longer term: Contributions to larger collaborative research project, a multi-year, multi-case study, that will result on an edited collection of case studies, teaching materials, policy briefs and use of digital media to disseminate lessons learned. (May 2016)

Annex 5 - Knowledge, Technology and Democracy, Work Plan for 2014-15

Key words:

Openness, Knowledge, Collaboration, Networked Activism, Commons based production

Group Coordinators:

Leslie Chan, Hani Morsi

Group Members:

Andrew Charman, Joanna Wheeler, Ronald Naluwairo, Laura Waisbich, Becky Hillyer

Context:

In the past few years, there has been an explosion of citizen contestation against prevailing power structures, both political and economic. Historically, there is nothing that is particularly novel about citizens challenging authority and claiming rights, yet it is the new modalities of these movements – largely driven by rapid advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) – that warrant a closer examination of these instances of popular dissent.

At the same time, there is growing interest among the development communities in understanding the impact of new modes of knowledge production, either horizontal and citizen-driven or enabled by technologies, and how in particular “open” approaches and networked-based peer-production might provide alternative ways of framing development policy and practices.

The emergence of open technologies is not without resistance, however. Both autocratic and ‘democratic’ regimes are crafting new and restrictive regulatory frameworks whose impact on the new technological pathways for citizens mobilisation and sharing knowledge could be far reaching.

Problems:

Several attempts to understand these new modalities of action work within conventional disciplinary and methodological boundaries, and frame questions limited in conceptual scope. This limits the potential of producing new knowledge on the complex relationships between technological change, knowledge production and sociopolitical change. Examples include:

- The body of research focused on understanding citizen-led movements does not adequately account for the technological/networked facilitators and catalysts of such movements, including how pervasive network technologies influences modes of mobilisation, communication of ideology and contentious action.
- Analyses of institutional framework and incentives of knowledge production framed in market-based thinking often overlook the new kinds of motivations and organizational innovations created by distributed individuals working on common causes. This is creating a dissonance between discourses on

“openness” and the actual restricted (market-based) pathways of knowledge production and distribution.

With that in mind, it becomes apparent that some conceptual reassessments, as well as an exploration of methodological innovations, are necessary to better understand the relationships between emerging technologies and current trajectories of socio-political change.

Emerging Themes:

I. Actors, identities and strategies

- Citizen-centred and citizen-driven research and knowledge generation in solving local problems; how knowledge for action is constituted (commons-based peer production, co-production, creativity)
- “Small Data” that shed light on the relationship between mediated practices, social identities and repertoires of action and citizen-state relationships.

II. Networked activism and networked actions

- Technologically-catalysed activism and networked social movements
- Barriers to democratic activism – role of technology in facilitating or prohibiting different forms of activism
- The role of technology in mediating forms of activism

III. Openness and knowledge production

- The notion of “openness” in current discourses on knowledge production and sharing.
- Innovations in social innovations and governance of commons based resources based on principles of “openness”
- Knowledge is two-ways, not just access to institutional knowledge, but also making open knowledge from the community

IV. Policy framing and big data

- Impact of emerging policies and regulatory frameworks on sharing knowledge for citizens mobilisation and empowerment. (state surveillance and censorship, emerging policy trends on Internet governance)
- Big Data from various sectors (health, finance, education) and how they provide new insights and patterns into a broad range of social issues that would otherwise be invisible
- Ethical considerations relevant to the increasing interest in Big Data (e.g. privacy, right to information, concerns around de-humanisation).

Questions:

- What forms of production and what pathways of knowledge circulation are necessary for and created through democratic activism? How do these knowledge creation processes differ in varying local contexts?
- How do these pathways challenge conventional explanations on the flows of knowledge about democracy? (a focus empirically on what creates these pathways and how they are shifted)
- What are the key actors and institutions in these processes, and what interests do they promote?

- How do the current and emerging legal and policy frameworks impact knowledge production and communication? And how can citizen participate in the policy making process?
- How are open forms of technology challenging/reinforcing discourses around democracy, particularly within political contexts?
- Are there differences in the manifestations of the above in different geo-political contexts, particularly between the Global South and the North?

Outputs:

Towards the Development of a “Scholarly API” (Application Programming Interface) for Collaborative Research on Knowledge, Technology and Democracy

1. This is intended to be a web-based resource for documenting existing and emergent case studies on research and practices that illustrate aspects of “Scholarly API” and their implications for collaborative research on networked activism and citizenship
2. A concept paper on the idea of “Scholarly API” will be developed by the core members of this group, and the paper will be open to other CORD members for input. It will also be circulated widely to other interested communities as the paper takes shape.
3. The site will also link to existing tools and potential tools that would enable the kind of collaborative engagements outlined above.
4. An extensive literature review of research on the areas identified – Openness, Big Data, Networked Social Movements – in order to identify recent theoretical developments and the empirical data that are currently available
 - This should also include a review of the literature on classifications of types and forms of knowledge.
 - The literature review will serve as a foundation for creating a conceptual map of key areas of research and approaches of existing or proposed CORD projects
 - A Living Literature Landscape: a visual output that layers the concentration of approaches/ideas, geographical location and work that is being done on thematic issues (possibly using ManyEyes or other data visualisation software); using OpenAccess buttons; using open API to incorporate data from other relevant sources
 - [practically this will involve creating a template with appropriate categories that will be completed through crowdsourcing and then aggregated]
 - All group members to conduct one or two maps with activists (on how they gain awareness or consciousness about their rights, and what they need to act on this awareness. This would also involve the mapping of more fully the actors involved in knowledge production on democracy). The purpose of doing this would be to pilot these methods and potentially narrow down our focus, if necessary.

Expected Timeline:

- Web site setup and concept paper: Draft completed by end of July
- Living literature review: Ongoing and to be completed by the next CORD meeting

Annex 6 - Marginalization and Social Service Provision, Work Plan 2014-15

Marginalization and Social Service Provision Working Group Template – “Pathways to Improving Well-Being in a World Without Work”:

Key Words:

Social Welfare Provision, Health Care, Inequality, Advocacy Politics, Social Policy Domain.

Group Coordinators:

Vera Coleho, Paul Kingston

Group Members:

Shylashri Shankar, Laura Waisbich, Nayana Godamunne, Jill, Steven Robbins, Ranjita Mohanty, Alex Shankland, Hayley MacGregor

Context

The focus of this CORD working group is to examine in comparative perspective the opportunities and challenges of improving well-being in the field of health and social service provision for marginalized populations in developing countries. The overarching context that informs this collaborative research project are the present dynamics of economic development and growth that have failed to reduce socio-economic inequalities or generate broad-based employment. These dynamics accentuate the pressures on service provision in the fields of social welfare and health.

Starting from this broad socio-economic context, the working group seeks to analyze case studies of successful reform in the area of social service provision and health. These case studies will revolve around two comparisons. The first focuses on the nature of the political system and the ‘policy domain’ being examined. On the one hand will be those countries whose political systems can be classified as more institutionalized and ‘rule-based’ – among them being the various countries associated with the BRICS. On the other hand will be those countries whose political systems are classified as being less institutionalized and more informalized with dynamics being classified more along patronage/clientelist lines.

The second comparison revolves around an analysis of the opportunities and challenges for social action that emerge within these distinct political contexts and the various strategies adopted to take advantages of these opportunity structures. It is envisioned that some strategies will revolve around the politics of contestation and social mobilization – seeking improved social service delivery from outside of the state, a second set of strategies will be focused on associative action and networking – seeking to find ways of opening up the state to institutionalized policy influence from civil society actors, and a third set of strategies will revolve around improving the management within already institutionalized social policy/health policy domains.

A more detailed outline of the proposed research along with more precise research questions will emerge in early 2015 after a series of group consultations.

Outputs

The short term outputs with timelines are as follows:

- **June 2014** (mid-to-late) – working group exchange references upon which a more precise common conceptual framework can be formulated.
- **August 2014** (late) – comparative literature review of social welfare regimes in the Global South be completed and circulated (Kingston).
- **September 2014** (late) – e-dialogue working group session to formulate a more precise conceptual framework for the working group (based upon literature references previously exchanged).
- **December 2014** (early) – each working group member produce a short draft outline of their respective case studies based upon the common conceptual framework
- **January 2015** (late) – e-dialogue session with working group members to establish the framework and parameters for a collaborative working paper to be presented and discussed at the next CORD meeting.

Annex 7 - Urban Peace Building, Work Plan for 2014-15

Keywords:

Collective Violence, Peace Building, Cities, Urbanization, Social Infrastructure, Housing, Informal Political Relations, Marginality, Conflicts

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Context

The theme focuses on the conditions under which groups, citizens and the state conflict and/or collaborate on every day issues of infrastructure, housing, displacement, schooling, hospitals and clinics in expanding cities. It explores the connection between urban violence, economic and social marginalisation, and informal politics in cities of the South A key objective will be to demonstrate the importance of informal political relations to various, often interlinked, forms of urban peace building.

Focus Questions

The questions tackled by the group will initially be focused on analysing the conditions under which collective violence is used as a way of imposing a specific local order.

(i) Symposium on Collective Violence and Local Order (Hyderabad, Cape Town, Rio)

The authors of the chapters will focus on questions related to the following:

- Who drives this collective violence? Who defines the order (norms, territories, behaviour, insider/outsider)
- Against whom? Resistance, resources
- What other ways (non-violent) have been attempted and failed/or ceased to work?
- What triggers the eruption of violence, where and why?
- What are the outcomes? Spatial/normative/social/political.

Outputs

1. A symposium in a journal.
 - Timeline: Abstracts are due from the authors by July 31, 2014, and the first draft of the paper is due by December 15, 2014.
2. Proposal building on Urban Peace Building: We will begin the process of creating a proposal on how groups, citizens and the state conflict and collaborate on every day issues of infrastructure, displacement, resettlement, housing, schooling, hospitals and clinics in expanding cities
 - Output: Proposal to be created and discussed in the next CORD meeting.
 - Funding possibilities: UN Habitat Safer Cities