

The Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability, or Citizenship DRC, is an international research partnership exploring new forms of citizenship. It involves a network of researchers and practitioners working with research institutions and civil society organisations located in 7 different countries - Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa and the UK. The Citizenship DRC is coordinated from the Participation Group at the Institute of Development studies at IDS.

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For more information on any of these items visit www.drc-citizenship.org

1. RECENT DRC ACTIVITIES

Citizenship DRC Meetings in Brazil, March-April 2004

From 22 March to 2 April 2004, the Citizenship DRC, in collaboration with CEBRAP, the Citizenship DRC's Brazilian partner, held a series of successful events including research workshops, a steering committee meeting and a Mid-Term Review workshop in Brazil. CEBRAP also organised a field visit to health councils in Sapopemba, São Paulo, where their research is being carried out, and convened a seminar at CEBRAP on 'Social policies: participation, deliberation, and planning'.

Citizenship DRC Internship Programme 2004

After a very competitive process, four postgraduate students from IDS have been awarded internships to carry out research around the DRC's core themes in collaboration with the DRC partners:

- Lina Villa-Cordoba on environmental governance in Mexico.
- Elizabeth Kirk on the new institutionalised spaces in the health sector in Bangladesh.
- Keren Ghitis on participation and resistance around oil in Nigeria.
- Lucy Hayes on health councils in Brazil.

Reports on their work will be made available on the DRC website in October: www.drc-citizenship.org

Launch of Bulletin 'New Democratic Spaces?', June 2004

On 29 June 2004, the Citizenship DRC launched the new IDS Bulletin 'New Democratic Spaces?' edited by Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan de Coelho, Volume 35 (2), April 2004. This volume includes contributions from DRC partners drawing together research on spaces in policy processes for participation. The launch was chaired by John Gaventa, with Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan as speakers and Joel Rocamora (Institute for Popular Democracy, The Philippines) and Jorge Romano (Action Aid Brazil) as commentators.

Visiting Fellowship, June-July 2004, IDS

Vera Schattan de Coelho, country leader for Brazil, carried out a visiting fellowship in IDS from 29 June to 15 July, in order to develop a comparative study between Brighton, UK and São Paulo, Brazil on the relationship between participation, inclusion and access to services of deliberative health councils for the 'Spaces for Change?' research programme.

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

Realising Rights and Claiming Accountabilities Meeting, September 2004, IDS

The research programme on Realising Rights and Claiming Accountabilities will be holding a meeting in September 2004 at IDS. The meeting will be a space to discuss interim results of the ongoing research projects, to develop connections and linkages between their work and to comment on the first draft chapters for the forthcoming volume in the Zed Book series on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability in development.

Steering Committee Meeting, September 2004

The Steering Committee will be holding a meeting in September 2004 at IDS to discuss the timetable for DRC work and activities as well as continue the discussions on how to organize a possible future phase of the DRC.

3. NEWSLETTER FEATURE - Health Councils in São Paulo, Brazil

CEBRAP, as part of the current phase of DRC research, is undertaking research on how existing participatory channels impact the organization and service provision of the public health system in São Paulo. Health councils are participatory forums where public policy on health is planned and discussed within the municipal and state levels of the Department of Health and Ministry of Health. From the preliminary findings of this research and the field visit, it was clear that the 31 sub-municipalities created in the recent process of decentralisation have very different resources, health facilities and histories of political mobilisation. The crucial challenge for the health councils is to incorporate an understanding of these differences into the process of channelling the voices of the public and helping to address the different needs and priorities raised in these contexts. This, in turn, should lead to a reduction in the differences in the distribution of health services between disparate sub-municipalities, and contribute to a more effective realisation of the right to health. For more information, please visit our website: www.drc-citizenship.org, or send an email to drcinfo@ids.ac.uk.

4. NEW AND UPCOMING DRC DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

IDS Bulletin: 'New Democratic Spaces?' edited by Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan Coelho, IDS Bulletin, 35(2), April 2004. In this volume, DRC researchers explore, through different case studies, the dynamics and effectiveness of participatory spaces in policy processes. This bulletin is available from the IDS bookshop: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/index.html>

IIS-UNAM/DRC Working Paper: 'El mapeo de la transparencia o responsabilidad social: orígenes, contextos e implicaciones para el desarrollo', by Peter Newell and Shaula Bellour, co-published by IDS and the Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (IIS-UNAM) and Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Xochimilco (UAM-X). This is a translation of IDS Working Paper No. 168. Available online at: www.drc-citizenship.org

Book: 'Of dreams and Shadows: Seeking change for the institutionalisation of participation for natural resource management. The case of the Mexican regional sustainable development programme (PRODERS)', by Jutta Blauert and Kristina Dietz, London: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

IDS Working Paper 227: 'Corporate Accountability to the Poor? Assessing the Effectiveness of Community-Based Strategies', by Niamh Garvey and Peter Newell, forthcoming August 2004

5. TO RECEIVE OR STOP RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER

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