



# Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability

Annual Report 2007 - 2008

[www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org)

# Table of Contents

<b>1 Background Information</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 Executive summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Progress towards outputs and impact</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Research	<b>5</b>
Deepening democracy	5
Citizen engagements in a globalising world	10
Violence, participation & citizenship	13
Synthesis and cross-cutting research themes	17
3.2 Building capacities for research and action	17
Teaching and learning	18
Participatory video	19
North-south sharing of experience: Champions of Participation	21
3.3 Communication and policy influence	22
Zed books series	23
Sharing Citizenship DRC research with academic communities	24
Dialogue with stakeholders	25
Dialogue with donors	27
3.4 Developing the network and partnerships	28
Institutional development	28
Wider collaborations and partnerships	29
3.5 Governance and coordination	30
<b>4 Lessons Learnt</b>	<b>31</b>
4.1 Mid-term review	31
4.2 Lessons on research: the need for deeper synthesis	32
4.3 Lessons on partnerships	32
4.4 Lessons on sustainability	34

## List of Tables

Table 1 Summary of Citizenship DRC outputs 2007-08	6
Table 2 Work in progress on the Deepening Democracy Working Group	8
Table 3 Work in progress on the Global Citizen Engagements Working Group	11
Table 4 Work in Progress on Violence, Citizen and Participation Working Group	14
Table 5 Actions agreed at CARG meeting, October 2007	31

# 1 Background Information

<b>Title of research programme</b>	Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability
<b>Reference number</b>	R7849
<b>Period covered by report</b>	October 2007-September 2008
<b>Name of lead institution and director</b>	Institute of Development Studies, UK John Gaventa
<b>Key partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acção Para O Desenvolvimento Rural E Ambiental (ADRA), Angola</li> <li>• BRAC University, Bangladesh</li> <li>• Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP), Brazil</li> <li>• Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), India</li> <li>• Theatre for Development Centre (TFDC), Nigeria</li> <li>• Centre for Southern African Studies, School of Government, University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa</li> <li>• Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK</li> </ul>
<b>Countries involved in research</b>	Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, UK, Canada
<b>Additional associated researchers and institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Newell, University of East Anglia; Rosalba Icaza, Institute of Social Studies, the Hague; Marcelo Saguier, FLACSO, Argentina.</li> <li>• Marj Mayo, Goldsmiths College, University of London</li> <li>• Carlos Cortez, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, Mexico</li> <li>• Jenny Pearce, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford</li> <li>• Colette Harris, University of East Anglia</li> <li>• Celestine Nyamu-Musembi, University of Nairobi</li> <li>• Duncan Okello, Society for International Development, Kenya</li> <li>• David Kahane, University of Alberta</li> <li>• Saturnino Borrás, Saint Mary's University, Canada</li> </ul>
<b>Start date</b>	Planned October 2005, Actual October 2005
<b>End date</b>	Planned September 2010, Actual September 2010
<b>Total programme budget</b>	Planned £3,680,426

## 2 Executive summary

The Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability (Citizenship DRC) carries out research that fosters the empowerment of active citizens, enabling them to hold institutions to account and participate in policy-making in pursuit of their rights. The Citizenship DRC started its work in 2001 and has evolved into a network of seven institutional partners in the UK, Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Nigeria and South Africa. The network also includes associate researchers working in Mexico, Jamaica, Kenya, Canada, and Argentina. In total, over 60 researchers are directly involved in Citizenship DRC projects and many more academics, activists and policymakers participate in working groups, capacity building activities and broader networks emerging from the work. The programme's focus on citizenship, participation and accountability is intended to influence policy debates and practice at local, national and international levels. To that end, the Citizenship DRC's objectives include generating new knowledge, disseminating this widely to decision-makers and practitioners, and building the capacity of partner institutions to carry out high-quality research, communication and policy engagement.

This year is the final year in which original case studies have been developed under the thematic working groups that have been in place since 2005/6:

- Deepening democracy in states and localities,
- Citizen engagement in a globalising world, and
- Violence, participation and Citizenship.

Each of these working groups has produced and analysed a substantial amount of new empirical data, which is now being prepared for dissemination in various forms.

Alongside the research, Citizenship DRC partners have engaged in a wide variety of policy and research fora and have shared their work with practitioners, activists and decision-makers at the local, national and international levels. One of the most exciting results of these efforts in the last year was the 'Champions of Participation' initiative, which brought Southern voices and experience to bear on the UK context for participation in governance, ultimately leading to a significant policy change at national level.

Citizenship DRC partners have benefited from capacity development as a result of participating in Citizenship DRC work and through dedicated initiatives such as training and support in using participatory video for research and social action. In the past year an entirely new strand of capacity building work has emerged in the shape of a teaching and learning project that has encouraged Citizenship DRC researchers from across the network to develop innovative, rigorous and empirically rich curricula for students, activists and professionals in a range of courses on democracy, governance, citizenship and accountability.

In 2008 a Mid-Term Review concluded that the Citizenship DRC is making 'good progress toward purpose completion': key outputs are likely to be achieved and the project is expected to have a significant impact. At the same time, the review pointed to a number of challenges to be taken up in the final phase of work, including the need to draw more synthetic and generalised conclusions from the case study research, to engage more robustly with existing debates, to generate strategic top line policy messages, and to develop more proactive communication and influencing strategy. These recommendations have been taken up in the planning process for the period April 2009 – September 2010.

## 3 Progress towards outputs and impact

The Citizenship DRC carries out work in four broad areas:

- Research,
- Capacity building,
- Communication and policy influencing, and
- Network development.

The following sections give a brief introduction to each thematic area, an update on significant progress in the past year and a summary of impacts, findings and the lessons learnt by each group.

Table 1 Summary of Citizenship DRC outputs 2007-08 (see overleaf)

### 3.1 Research

Citizenship DRC research is carried out by three working groups, each focused on a distinct them. Those themes are:

- Deepening Democracy,
- Citizen Engagement in a Globalising World, and
- Violence, Participation and Citizenship.

This section presents the progress on each of those themes followed by a brief section on synthesis and cross-cutting research themes, which will take over as the priority research agenda in the next year. During the final phase, these research themes will give way to work seeking to synthesize lessons from across the Citizenship DRC's research in the last eight years.

#### Deepening democracy

The recent wave of democratisation in the global South has focused attention on the extent to which the institutions and processes of formal democracy (e.g. elections) contribute to justice and equality in developing countries. The work of the Deepening Democracy in States and Localities working group is driven by a concern that the focus on formal institutions fails to take into account the crucial ways that citizen mobilisation is building democracy. The group's work challenges the narrow institutionalist approach by asking new questions about democracy from the perspective of the citizens themselves. It explores the crucial links between the political practices and democratic innovations emerging from citizens and the democratisation of society as a whole.

The work speaks to four broader themes around deepening democracy:

- The building of formal democratic institutions;
- The role of intermediaries in organising associations and their links with governance practices;
- Emerging networks between state and civil society; and
- How to understand democratic outcomes.

It addresses a weakness in the existing academic literature: a failure to address simultaneously the micro-politics of citizen mobilisation and the macro-politics of changes in governance. It also redresses the relative paucity of contributions from the South with work from researchers immersed deeply in emerging democracies themselves.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF CITIZENSHIP DRC OUTPUTS 2007-08

AREA OF WORK	OUTPUT	FURTHER DETAILS
Research programme 1: Deepening democracy in states and localities	Final analysis workshop and report	Draft papers (12)
	E-discussion (1)	February 2008, transcripts circulated to group
	Draft papers (12)	In development for Zed book
Research programme 2: Citizen engagement in a globalising world	Interim results workshop and report	October 2007, UK
	Draft papers (10)	In development for Working Paper series and Zed book
Research programme 3: Violence, participation and Citizenship	Final analysis workshop and report	Final analysis workshop and report
	Draft articles/contributions (20+)	In development for IDS Bulletin
Capacity development	Reflection on using participatory video for research and report	May 2008, South Africa
	Initial Teaching & Learning initiative workshop with report	January 2008, India
	Follow-up Teaching & Learning meeting with report	May 2008, South Africa
	E-dialogue (1)	July 2008, transcripts circulated to group
Communication and policy influence	Publications	IDS working papers (4) Citizenship DRC working paper (1) Demos pamphlet (1) Book (1) IDS policy briefing (1) E-newsletters (2) Website regularly updated Spanish language edition of 'Inclusive Citizenship' (published in Mexico) Multiple journal articles and book chapters by Citizenship DRC researchers (see Annex I)
	Events (examples)	Follow-up Champions of Participation event Launch of Demos/Citizenship DRC publication Partner events including conference, seminars, reflection workshops, and multiple presentations to diverse stakehold- ers (see Annexes II and III)

The working group addresses the following questions:

- Under what conditions does the mobilisation of poor and marginalised groups contribute to deepening democracy?
- What are the meanings and expressions of citizenship currently inspiring the mobilisations of marginalised communities?
- What kinds of democratic outcomes are associated with these mobilisations?

The group argues that in conjunction with the representative democracy and its formal institutions a variety of alternative forms of political mobilisation – protests, social participation, associations, litigation and lobbying – constitute the very essence of democratic politics, and not, as some might suggest, an indication of its failure. The perspective challenges dominant institutional approaches by questioning dichotomies between formal and informal institutions, between representative and other forms of democracy and between ‘hybrid’ and ‘democratic’ regimes. These dichotomies emerge out of a specific understanding of democracy that privileges representative democracy as the outcome of democratisation processes. The danger of this approach is the potential lack of understanding of how non-linear and complex the democratic process can be, how it is in fact characterised by gains and reversals rather than by an ineluctable evolution. It is important to understand democracy not simply as an end point involving the consolidation of formal institutions and representative democracy, but rather as a set of complex political processes involving the negotiation of alternative models of authority, e.g. rights-based and clientelistic modes of political engagement. The challenge is to find out how different models of authority interconnect and traverse each other in practice, how and why they last, how and why they potentially transform, and how they are impacted on by emerging mobilisations. The mainstream approach vastly over-simplifies the challenges of deepening democracy in the global South.

The Deepening Democracy Working Group comprises 15 research projects being carried out in seven countries.

Table 2. Work in progress on the Deepening Democracy Working Group (see overleaf)

The research projects in the table above can be tentatively grouped into three themes: political reform (Nigeria, Kenya), public policies (South Africa, Brazil) and civil society organisations (Bangladesh, Angola, India). The Nigerian and Kenyan teams inquire how mobilisation can help to strengthen governance initiatives that guarantee the accountability of the political representative system. The South African and Brazilian teams inquire how the new governance structures put in place during the democratisation process are working to guarantee universal access to public policies. The Bangladeshi, Angolan and Indian teams are investigating the role of different types of civil society organisations in promoting democratic citizenship. All these cases are empirically grounded and seek to identify the conditions under which we can expect mobilisation to advance the democratic project and where we might expect it to fail.

### *Key research activities during the year*

During this year all researchers in the group have carried out their primary research and analysis. The group held a very active ten-day e-conference in February 2008, which provided crucial guidance and preparation for their subsequent workshop in May 2008 in South Africa. At this 3-day workshop group members shared drafts of their final papers and subjected them to peer-review in small groups. These papers, now being reworked to respond to this peer review and to comments from the group convenors, will be published in 2009 as another volume

in the Citizenship DRC's series with Zed Books (provisionally entitled 'Mobilising for Democracy'). The May workshop was also an opportunity for the working group looking at Violence, Participation and Citizenship to share their work and consider cross-cutting themes and future synthesis work.

**TABLE 2 WORK IN PROGRESS ON THE DEEPENING DEMOCRACY WORKING GROUP**

RESEARCHER	TOPIC	COUNTRY
Andrea Cornwall	Mobilisation and mediation in the struggle for social rights for domestic workers	Brazil
Idaci Ferreira and Sandra Roque	From humanitarian aid to citizenship participation: the Núcleo Representativo das Associações in Dombe Grande, Angola	Angola
Jibrin Ibrahim and Sam Egwu	The role of citizen action in the consolidation of democracy in Nigeria	Nigeria
Simeen Mahmud and Naila Kabeer	Deepening Participation, building citizenship and promoting participation: the role of civil society organisations	Bangladesh
Ranjita Mohanty	Reviving the agenda of social justice Civil society and citizenship practice in the institutions of local governance	India
Zander Navarro	New spaces of participation, democratisation and extreme poverty: recycling garbage in Porto Alegre	Brazil
Celestine Nyamu and Duncan Okello	The dynamics of political change and transition: civil society, governance and the culture of politics	Kenya
Alex Shankland and team	Identity politics, representation and health policy in Acre	Brazil
Steve Robins	Exploring the limits and possibilities of 'rights talk': a case study of aids activism	South Africa
Vera Schattan and team	Social participation and public health services in the city of São Paulo	Brazil
Vera Schattan and team	Participatory sphere, identity politics and development in the region of Vale do Ribeira	Brazil
Chris Tapscott	Citizen participation in Cape Town: a tale of two communities	South Africa
Lisa Thompson	Poverty, participation and power: mobilisation on rights to service delivery	South Africa
Bettina Von Lieres	Reconfiguring participatory institutions between state and society in South Africa	South Africa



### *Emerging lessons and findings*

The following points have emerged from sharing case studies at the working group meeting in May 2008:

1. A core finding across all case studies is that informal practices of political mobilisation (e.g. protests, associational networking, litigation and lobbying, and social movement activism), shape democracy as fundamentally as representative democracy and its formal institutions do.
2. All case studies describe democratic processes as non-linear, complex and marked by gains and reversals. In Nigeria, for example, a broad citizen alliance aimed at mobilising for democratic elections experienced repeated cycles of gains and reversals in its attempt to unseat authoritarian leaders.
3. Our case studies also show that there is no automatic and necessary improvement at the level of political representation in local government as a result of participation in informal citizen networks and mobilisations. This often only comes about as a result of the intervention of intermediaries, be they NGOs, political parties or local elites

The discoveries made about the complex role of intermediaries constitute a significant contribution to the existing literature on political representation and the relationship between civil society and the state.

4. Some case studies, focusing on the micro-politics of mobilisation, show how citizens mobilise using hybrid approaches to citizenship, often invoking “participation” and “rights” while simultaneously pursuing other strategies for engagement with the state (i.e. including patronage-based modes of engagement and clientelism). For example, in South Africa, community residents participate in new state-initiated ward committee while continuing patronage relations with party leaders. These mixed forms of political engagement do not necessarily lead to undemocratic outcomes.
5. The cases highlight how citizens engage simultaneously in different forms of political activism – participation, litigation, lobbying, and protests – to achieve different types of rights. Different forms of political activism make up the “democratic toolkit” and are not, as many mainstream authors suggest, strategies that come to the fore once representative mechanisms fail. Given the trade-offs between political activism and economic coordination, this toolkit needs to be used strategically if democratic government and practices are to flourish.
6. The cases studies from Kenya, Bangladesh, India, Angola and South Africa show significant democratic outcomes associated with changes in individual, pedagogical and economic development as a result of citizens participating in associational networks, NGOs and more informal practices of mobilisation. In Kenya, for example, there is strong empirical evidence that NGOs have fostered wide-spread commitment to democratic values, human rights and active political participation amongst their members. The case studies from Kenya and Bangladesh provide strong support in favour of the opinion that NGOs, whether concerned with economic development or human rights, can foster citizens’ understanding of rights and enlarge their capacities to succeed in the work market.
7. At the same time, a further key finding from the group’s work is the complexity of evaluating democratic gains. Democratic gains cannot be thought of purely as institutional or procedural changes. It is crucial to appreciate them as well from the perspective of citizens, who mobilise around their own understandings of the value of democracy. In some cases, citizens

mobilise toward ends that are not about democracy at all. A central message from the group is about the heterogeneity of democratic gains and the importance of defining and articulating these in particular contexts.

## Citizen engagements in a globalising world

Globalisation, new forms of governance and emerging transnational social movements are creating new spaces and opportunities for citizen engagement. Indeed, some would argue that citizenship itself is being de-linked from territory as power becomes more multi-layered and multi-scaled and governance increasingly involves both state and non-state actors, which often are transnational.

In this context, the work of the group focuses on a single research question: **How do changing patterns of power and governance (changing landscapes of actors, spaces, diffusion of authority, de-linking from territory) affect the meanings, experiences and practices of Citizenship in a globalising world?**

In examining this question, the group pays close attention to:

- Dynamics of mobilisation (particularly new forms and tensions of alliance building and claim-making across local-national-regional scales);
- Politics of intermediation (representation, legitimacy, accountability of actors across scales);
- Politics of knowledge (different framings, and power to frame, dynamics of contestation across forms of expertise and ways of knowing);
- Dynamics and process of inclusion and exclusion (who gains, who loses?); and
- Materiality of the issue and context in which mobilisation occurs.

While a great deal of work has been done both on transnational citizen action, the work of this group is unique in the way in which each project takes a citizen's perspective to look at the vertical links from the local and the global. And while much normative and conceptual literature examines the concept of global citizenship, few studies of the theme are actually grounded in empirical study of concrete cases of how global reconfigurations of power actually affect citizens' own perceptions of the forms and possibilities of engagement. The group is particularly interested in asking:

- How do citizens understand their rights and whom do they see as duty-holders with respect to those rights?
- What are the strategies and processes of rights-claiming?
- How do perceived duty-holders respond to these rights claims?
- How do citizens experience new identities and solidarities in this process?

The group is made up of fifteen researchers, carrying out field projects in India, Nigeria, Kenya, the Gambia, Brazil and South Africa as well as other cross-national projects in Latin America (see table below). The projects commonly examine new forms of citizen engagement

across local-national-global spaces, but do so by looking across a number of sectors (e.g. the environment, trade, education, livelihoods, health and HIV/AIDS, work and occupational disease, agriculture and land) and by looking at number of types of engagement, ranging from campaigns and social movements, to participation of citizens in new institutionally designed spaces and fora.

**TABLE 3 WORK IN PROGRESS ON THE GLOBAL CITIZEN ENGAGEMENTS WORKING GROUP**

RESEARCHER	TOPIC	COUNTRY/REGION
Angela Alonso	Globalisation and the Brazilian environmental movement	Brazil
Saturnino Borras and Jennifer Franco	Transnational campaigns for agrarian reform	Multiple
Rebecca Cassidy and Melissa Leach	Global funding and AIDS treatment	The Gambia
Rosalba Icaza, Peter Newell and Marcelo Saguier	Trade Politics in the Americas (various aspects in linked projects)	Latin America
Marj Mayo and John Gaventa	Local and global advocacy: the Millennium Development Goal of Education for All	India, Nigeria and the UK
Lyla Mehta	Citizenship and displaced peoples	Multiple
Steven Robins	Health Citizenship, HIV/AIDS and the mediations of global biomedicine	South Africa
Ian Scoones	Global engagements with Global Assessments: the Case of the IAASTD	Africa
Rajesh Tandon and Julie Thekkudan	Women's livelihoods and global engagements	India
Linda Waldman	Mobilisation, citizenship and risk on asbestos issues	India and South Africa

### *Key research activities during the year*

The group met for a workshop in October 2007 at the University of Sussex. At this meeting draft working papers were presented from each of the projects above and participation by two external commentators, Jan-Art Scholte (University of Warwick) and Lisa Jordan (Ford Foundation) contributed to a process whereby the group further unpacked the core concepts they are using. For each of the dimensions being explored, the sub-group has now developed an

analytical template from the cases. Since the October meeting researchers have been finalising their papers accordingly in preparation for a synthesis discussion in October 2008.

### *Emerging lessons and findings*

Several key findings are emerging from across the diverse research projects:

- Patterns of power and governance are changing in ways that significantly shift the space for citizen engagement, e.g. changing landscapes of actors, new spaces, diffusion of authority, de-linking of authority from territory. Decision-making architectures are changing so that traditional forms of global authority based on the pre-eminence of nation-states in domestic arenas no longer apply.
- In the shifting terrain, new solidarities emerge among citizens on the basis of claiming rights across borders or from international actors. Strong examples are found in the cases of displaced peoples who claim rights from international actors despite often having no state-based or territorial-based identities. At the same time, strategies of rights-claiming by citizens in a globalising world are most effective when national state institutions are also targeted.
- Mobilisation: A number of the cases speak to the challenges and opportunities of mobilising in a changing political landscape, e.g. around the environment, agrarian reform, trade, education for all, HIV & AIDS, and asbestos. In these cases there is a challenge around addressing the power relations involved in linking with different levels of action: 'vertical alliances' are important but they are difficult to build and sustain;
- New global political opportunities give rise to new forms of citizen engagement, some created 'from above' and others 'from below.' Yet the politics of intermediation and of knowledge in mobilisation across these spaces has implications both for inclusion and exclusion. While in some cases shifting political landscapes between the local and global have contributed to new alliances, in others they have reinforced dynamics of exclusion.

In certain cases the changing political landscape seems to be contributing to the emergence of an embryonic sense of global citizenship, yet in others it may simply reinforce the fragility of citizen engagement at any level. Policy interventions and citizen mobilising strategies need to pay more attention to the complexities of these interactions.

### *Methodological considerations*

The group's work has in many cases used ongoing dialogues with key actors as a research approach, from which several important methodological lessons are emerging:

- The value of ongoing dialogue or reflective spaces with key actors. As mentioned above, one of the key lessons has been the value and importance of reflexive methods, such as workshops, for both gaining useful insights and empirical materials, but also for having an impact. For this, ongoing or pre-existing relationships of trust have been important to gain access and to have the openness required. So too has been the willingness by researchers to share materials in more accessible forms, and in different languages, such as in Spanish for the Bolivia workshop.
- Access and resistance. While dialogue with key actors has been possible in certain situations, in other cases we have been surprised by the difficulties of getting access, and in some cases, the hostile resistance to the research. In India, for instance, corporate and governmental actors

were suspicious of the research by PRIA on their engagement with local self-help groups. In other cases, such as in Ian Scoones' work to track processes associated with the International Assessment for Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), simply getting access to somewhat opaque and hidden processes has been a challenge. All of this in itself begins to suggest a key lesson: that the interaction of global actors with national and local actors is not easily transparent, and that attempts for greater transparency and knowledge in these areas may not be welcomed by all.

- **Methodological challenges.** A third set of challenges and learning has been around methods. Doing research that links the macro political economy processes with micro processes has proven a challenge. At the local level, far more in-depth methods, such as biographies of key actors, may be necessary to really understand some of the questions which we attempting to explore, especially around how meanings and understandings of Citizenship change through local-global interactions.

### New Global Spaces – the IAASTD and global agricultural policy

During this last year, an example of a new type of 'global space' for citizen engagement has been the International Assessment for Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), a large-scale attempt to combine 'expert assessment' with other 'stakeholder consultation' on global agricultural policies. IDS researcher Ian Scoones has followed the process and has prepared a paper analysing the degree to which such spaces offer new opportunities for citizen engagement. Do they genuinely allow alternative voices to be heard? Do they create a new mode of engagement in global arenas? How do local and global processes articulate? And what are the power relations involved, creating what processes of inclusion and exclusion?

The research suggests that mechanisms such as the IAASTD address the challenges of participation and accountability do not hold in this case. The process has been unable to truly value different forms of knowledge or redress the politics and values that emerge from an attachment to an 'objective,' 'expert-led' approach:

*'A lack of recognition of antagonistic politics – over knowledge, identity and the construction of futures – means that the cosmopolitan, deliberative ideal that the IAASTD presents as its model, suppresses, diverts and bottles up such tensions.'*

This leads to the conclusion that struggles over the framing of the issues – and hence their underlying values and politics – need to be brought 'front-stage' and handled with greater reflexivity in the IAASTD process.

(FROM IAN SCOONES'S "GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH GLOBAL ASSESSMENTS" (IDS WORKING PAPER 313))

The findings from this working group will have important implications both for global civil society actors and networks, in terms of how they link to local actors and issues, as well as for donors and policy makers seeking to strengthen effective citizen engagement in governance processes. While there has been growing attention by donors on how to do this at various policy levels – e.g. international, national and local – this work suggests that policies are rarely vertically nested, and that change requires agile networks who can link across levels and arenas.

## Violence, participation & citizenship

The Violence, Participation and Citizenship (VPC) Working Group was established in this phase of the work following the recognition of the significance of violence as a mediating factor in citizenship. The group's aim is to put violence into the foreground of debates around democracy, participation and citizenship. One main question guides the research in the group: How do people in violent contexts begin to act in ways which both reduce violence and enhance their rights and ability to participate in democratic ways?

Often violence is treated as part of the backdrop: tragic, deadly, but somehow ornamental to the real dramas. Yet in many parts of the world, violence in the home, the neighbourhood, the school, the prisons, and in the sphere of politics itself heavily overshadows the possibilities for participation in the public sphere, and has differential gender impacts. At times violence erupts in ways which push it into the headlines but in many situations it has become part of everyday life. Far from a backdrop, it is woven into the very social fabric which it tears and destroys. Many countries (in the global North as well as the South) now have areas of multiple forms of violence and insecurity where the idea of security as a public good has been abandoned, and what the VPC group describe as ‘parallel’ communities have emerged, where protection is offered at a price by private armed actors.

The group has conducted research in the following sites and locations:

**TABLE 4 WORK IN PROGRESS ON VIOLENCE, CITIZEN AND PARTICIPATION WORKING GROUP**

RESEARCHER	THEME	COUNTRY
Carlos Cortez	Social action against violence in two indigenous regions	Mexico
Colette Harris	Bringing young people out of violence into citizenship	Nigeria
Joy Moncrieffe	Labelling, violence and citizenship	Jamaica
Theatre for Development Centre (Steve Abah, Jenks Okwori, Ogah Alubo and others)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beliefs, perceptions, difference and violence</li> <li>• Religion, violence and interfaith dialogue for building Citizenship</li> <li>• Yan bangas (vigilantes), violence, exit communities and citizenship prospects</li> </ul>	Nigeria
Joanna Wheeler	Jagged' Citizenships and parallel communities: citizenship and social exclusion in Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
Jenny Pearce	Violence, power and participation in contexts of chronic violence (background paper)	Colombia and Guatemala
Patricia Justino	Quantitative approaches to the study of violence	Cross-cutting

### *Key research activities during the year*

The main focus of the last has been completion of field-work and research reports. The group also decided to concentrate in 2008 on publishing a critical reflection on the methodologies used for researching violence; this will form the content of an IDS Bulletin in 2009 (see below). In May 2008 the group met in South Africa for its third workshop to plan a collection of papers on this, and to reflect on the key learning from the fieldwork. Members of the group presented their main findings and showed the visual material they had produced. Ndodana Nleva and Lisa Thompson from UWC were also invited to present their quantitative research in the South African Townships, which had not been directly on violence but which had revealed how significant an issue this was.

Members of the group also discussed plans for further dissemination and policy influencing work. Carlos Cortez and his Mexican team are planning to work with the Mexico City social development department around violence issues and the group has developed a diploma for studying violence using research materials which have been generated through the project. In Nigeria, there are also plans to take the video material to government and politicians.

### *Emerging lessons and findings*

Violence is difficult to research; it is much more difficult, this group would argue, than other kinds of research. There are the self-evident challenges of personal risks, ethical questions and entry points. Traditional qualitative methods have been used in this research, including ethnographic life histories, semi-structured interviews and so on, but the group has also tried to use methodologies which are participatory and which encourage the 'researched' to feel part of the research and able to learn through the research process.

The group considers that its efforts to explore new ways of researching violence have been one of its major achievements. Participatory theatre and video have been used in ways that have encouraged community reflection on violence but also to generate visual material which could be used to convey the issues people face to the policy community. The group has also used quantitative methods to allow comparison between different research sites in terms of socio-economic conditions and levels of violence.

### **Using participatory theatre to research violence in Nigeria**

Musa lives in Kawo, a suburb in the northern part of the sprawling Kaduna metropolis. He is a carpenter by trade. However, his business has been badly affected by the riots and movement of people to live in religious neighbourhoods in different parts of Kaduna. Musa's story is a story of boundaries, phobia and transformation. When we met him in August 2007 this was Musa's fear: "Since the violent incidents in Kaduna which led to Christians and Moslems living in different parts of the city, I have not gone south of Kaduna. If I go to Sabon Tasha I will be killed!"

But, look at how events unfolded: Musa and five other Moslem colleagues, plus four Christian counterparts devised a drama together on issues of conflict and violence in Kaduna; they went to Unguwar Romi, past Sabon Tasha, in Kaduna south to perform and nobody killed him! As we waited outside the church before the performance in Unguwar Romi, Musa sighted one neighbour who had relocated from Kawo after the riots in 2000 and it was a very ecstatic reunion! In the next five minutes they were asking after each other's family members and Musa was hugging and patting the young ones who had grown up since the last seven years when he last saw them. Before this first reunion ended, another person walked by and again Musa knew him and another round of pleasantries and many questions!

At the end of the encounters Musa said, "I know that all the stories I hear about what would happen to Moslems in the Christian parts of Kaduna are not true." I know we are all one people who used to live together peacefully. Musa now leads a group of young men in Kawo in an exercise of transformative education through which they engage in rigorous analysis to explore underlying factors to issues such as religion, gender and ethnicity.

Through the stories coming from the different contexts of research in Nigeria showed that working in conflict environments demand a different kind of negotiation to allay fears, give reassurances, and respect sensitivities. What came out was the need for openness on the part of researchers and to entrench participation as a means of ensuring community ownership and sustainability of actions after we have left the scene. Such openness would result in respect for the project and a buy-in by the larger community and perhaps authority.

(OGA STEVE ABAH AND JENKS OKWORI, FROM FORTHCOMING ARTICLE FOR IDS BULLETIN)

The group has intended this research to be more than an analysis of violence. The aim has been to use the research to find ways in which victims of violence (and that sometimes includes, paradoxically, perpetrators of violence) can also develop participatory social action aimed at tackling violence and its 'causes'. In taking this methodological approach, the groups explored how the research process itself can contribute to peaceful social transformation.

### *Forthcoming IDS Bulletin on Researching Violence*

The group's planned IDS Bulletin on 'Researching Violence' will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the different methodologies and the ethical and practical challenges of researching in violent contexts. This research bulletin aims to encourage the recognition that our knowledge of violence is severely limited by the risks and difficulties of working in violence contexts and by the inadequacies of our methodologies for understanding this problem, its causes and consequences. It focuses on a range of violent contexts other than civil and inter-state wars. Contributions recognise an ethical imperative when learning about violence to avoid exacerbating it and even to contribute to its reduction where possible.

### **Fear and risk in researching violence in Rio de Janeiro**

While it is possible to temporarily forget about violence in the face of Rio's hypnotic beauty and absorbing culture, conducting participatory research on the topic of violence there forced me as a researcher to directly confront my own assumptions about danger and my own fears about the risks I took. The research process also engendered risks for the community researchers and the community residents who participated, in some respects overlapping with my own and in others distinctive in character and dimension. Risk and fear emerged as part of a research topic, because they arise from violence and affect experiences of citizenship. They also act as a methodological constraint, because they affect research quality and the potential for social action to ensue from this research process, through limiting access, data validity, and participation. But fear and risk were also a characteristic of daily experience for me, and for the other researchers and the participants, because of working and living in violent places and interacting with violent actors.

(JOANNA WHEELER, FROM FORTHCOMING ARTICLE FOR IDS BULLETIN)

Other researchers join members of the VPC group in addressing a number of problems associated with researching violence and social action in violent contexts. On the one hand the Bulletin will open up discussion on the potentialities of using participatory methods in these contexts, methods which not only help us understand violence better, but help victims and in some cases, perpetrators reflect on violence and act to reduce and prevent it. In addition, other actors, such as policy makers and politicians might be encouraged to reflect on their own roles in promoting violence, directly or indirectly. Drawing on the group's innovative work with adapting survey techniques to the sensitivities of investigating violent contexts – for instance the need to build trust with respondents before asking questions or recognising which questions are unanswerable for people living in fear of violent actors – the Bulletin will explore how far methods usually associated with a positivist paradigm, such as surveys and questionnaires, can be used in violent contexts, as well as how far the data collected is flawed due to the risks involved in its collection.

Cross cutting the coverage of these methodological issues are the aspects of researching violence with groups who are particularly vulnerable as victims or victimizers, now or in the future, such as young men and children. Are there ways of researching violence which might limit its transmission across the generations? The difficulties of researching the gendered character of violence and violence in culturally complex contexts are themes which we also



consider particularly relevant. Finally, there has been a spate of eruptions of violence around elections, notably this year in Africa. How does one research these processes in a manner which can illuminate the reasons for these eruptions and contribute to new thinking about ways to address, expose and protest against electoral fraud? The final section of the Bulletin will provide a series of brief overviews of various methodological, ethical and emotional issues that occur in the research process.

## Synthesis and cross-cutting research themes

While bringing work in the three working groups to fruition, members of the Citizenship DRC have been looking ahead to the final stages of the work in which the emphasis will shift from producing new empirical material to synthesising lessons and findings from across the life of the Citizenship DRC. Discussions on the nature and possible focus of synthesis work have taken place at each of the key meetings over the year (October 2007, January and May 2008) and the network has agreed that synthesis needs to be done on various levels, with outputs relating to conceptual and theoretical developments; comparative studies drawing on the multi-country empirical material and pulling out cross-cutting themes; reflecting on methods and methodological innovations; and country-level syntheses of multiple projects over time or across themes.

Violence and Democracy – Notes from a joint session between Deepening Democracy and Violence, Participation & Citizenship groups, May 2008

An initial presentation by Jenny Pearce set out the case for some synthesis work by these groups:

- Violence is a particular issue for the poor and vulnerable;
- Living in fear and insecurity promotes authoritarian rather than democratic political options;
- Violence strengthens the form of power which is anti-participatory, dominating power;
- Violence is present in all our socialisation spaces and the ways in which these interact...have created mechanisms for its transmission through time and space, including through the construction of the nation state...

Then Citizenship DRC researchers presented stories from Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria, leading to a plenary discussion. Participants then worked in small groups to identify potential synthesis themes drawing on this discussion and other cross-cutting themes emerging from the Citizenship DRC's work, which has subsequently fed into the process of developing proposals for synthesis work, currently under way.

A process is currently under way to solicit ideas for specific synthesis projects under these broad headings. While it is too soon to predict what the final portfolio of projects may look like the richness of one related discussion which took place in May 2008 gives an indication of the potential (see box).

## 3.2 Building capacities for research and action

The Citizenship DRC's work to build research capacity takes various forms, many of them deeply embedded in the process of doing the research (e.g. learning new methodologies, developing new analytical frameworks through collaborative cross-country exchange, documenting

findings for peer review within research groups, participation in participatory workshops and e-dialogues). Professional development of researchers is also built into the process: several Citizenship DRC partners have involved junior researchers and interns in their work in ways that have broadened their research skills and deepened their professional experience, contributing to greater overall capacities for research in these institutions and countries. For example CE-BRAP is training nine postgraduate researchers who are working on relevant research projects in empirical research techniques for exploring local-global activism and deepening democracy, and BRAC University's Citizenship DRC team, which includes three members with professional specialisations including film-making and anthropology, is learning to work effectively with numerical data and statistical analysis, and to write for the popular media about their work.

Discrete initiatives with a capacity-building focus have also taken place throughout the life of the Citizenship DRC, including the following, which have been priorities during the past year:

- Teaching and learning new perspectives on citizenship;
- Using participatory video as a methodology for research and action; and
- Bringing lessons from innovations in participatory democracy in the South to policy actors in the North, through the 'Champions of Participation' project.

## Teaching and learning

During this year the new working group looking at curriculum development has started its work. This group brings together Citizenship DRC researchers who see a growing discrepancy between the analysis of citizenship and related issues emerging from the Citizenship DRC's work and the often narrow, conventional or outdated frames within which these subjects are taught in their contexts. The goal of the group is to collaboratively produce course materials and pedagogies to communicate what has been learnt in the Citizenship DRC to higher education and training audiences, using materials and case studies generated through the Citizenship DRC research as well as external material. Group members are committed to building courses around the 'seeing like a citizen' approach that has characterised Citizenship DRC research, while including material from outside the Citizenship DRC to show connections to wider literatures and how Citizenship DRC approaches might be challenged from other perspectives. In most contexts Citizenship DRC researchers work with heterogeneous groups of students, activists and students, some of whom want to know more about 'citizenship' as a concept and others of whom are exploring new possibilities of 'active citizenship' in a more practical sense. One function the group can perform is to de-mystify some of the successful approaches that are promoted, and to make Citizenship DRC findings accessible to students who may not be familiar with the terminologies and assumptions taken for granted in some Citizenship DRC work.

Following an initial e-dialogue in October 2007 the group had its first face-to-face meeting in January 2008 in India, a follow-up session at the working group meetings in May in South Africa and a further e-dialogue in July. Through this process three broad curriculum development projects have emerged, which draw on Citizenship DRC material for both case study and conceptual content:

- Development of university-level curricula for undergraduate and postgraduate courses (specific to each teaching institution involved) on citizenship, participation and accountability;

- Creation of a four-month distance learning course on citizenship, participation and accountability for development professionals, officials and students, hosted and managed by PRIA, using their proven online teaching platform and offered alongside their wider repertoire of existing distance learning courses;
- Development of training courses for public officials on issues around citizenship, participation and accountability.

Sub-groups within the teaching and learning group are working on specific initiatives to develop and implement courses in these three areas in line with their institutional agendas and remits. These are due to come on-line during 2009-2010.

Meanwhile Citizenship DRC researchers continue to draw on Citizenship DRC case studies and emerging conceptual lessons within existing courses that they teach.

Citizenship DRC-related courses being developed so far:

- At UWC, Lisa Thompson is developing a Masters module on Citizenship, Development and Democracy, and John Williams is creating an Honours module on Introduction to Governance taught by John Williams is also being developed further. Bettina Von Lieres is also teaching a module on Governance and Participation at the Politics Department, and a joint postgraduate module is being considered.
- Associate researchers and partners are planning similar courses for universities in Canada (Alberta, Toronto) and Mexico, while the possibility of developing a course is being considered for BRAC University in Bangladesh.
- The Continuing Education team at PRIA has put together a distance learning course which will be co-taught by the University of Victoria, Canada (PRIA's partner for other distance learning courses they offer) with input from some Citizenship DRC researchers, and guided by an advisory group involving several Citizenship DRC members. This will be launched in April 2009.
- CEBRAP (Brazil) and Laurence Piper (University of KwaZulu Natal, S Africa) are developing courses for public officials on participation and accountability.

## Participatory video

In previous years the Citizenship DRC has supported training in participatory video for a significant number of researchers within the network. Researchers in Brazil, Mexico and Nigeria have used it when researching citizenship in violent contexts, and in Angola and Bangladesh when researching about deeper democracy. This work continues to roll out with a large number of videos being made and used by Citizenship DRC partners in their ongoing work (see box on reflections, below). In addition, several of the partners have begun to train others in the use of PV, spreading this methodology more widely. For example:

- ADRA (Angola) has trained eleven staff members from other provinces in the use of PV for community work and research;
- In Bangladesh Citizenship DRC researchers held their fourth participatory video workshop with Karmojibi Nari, a labour rights organisation;

- TFDC trained community members in PV in several regions of Nigeria and is making plans to show the finished videos to both the communities involved and to national policy makers;
- In Mexico Citizenship DRC researchers worked with indigenous ‘promoters’ for health, education and law to produce three videos about how violence affects these areas. They produced these as part of a diploma course on participation and human development with UAM-X.
- In Brazil, community researchers used videos at a screening and debate with policy makers to raise questions about how the government addresses violence.

### Reflections on using Participatory Video

Throughout the year researchers who have been using PV have been reflecting on the experience:

The **Bangladesh team** noted in a report that “this experience was indeed ground-breaking. Not only was our fear of having to deal with conceptual and technical challenges in working with participants who have never been exposed to video technology thrown out the window, the technology was embraced and adopted very easily by the workshop participants.”

One of the Karmojibi Nari participants (mainly agricultural wage labourers) said, *“It was as if we were hidden all this time, and now we have been exposed to the entire world...workers all over the country will know of us and join in the work that we are doing.”* Another participant said, *“I have courage now. I feel strength in my heart...Earlier I could not speak. Now I can speak to anybody.”*

It was not just the fact of using the camera, but the act of interviewing people, whom they otherwise would not have felt free to question, such as a supervisor.

At the **South Africa workshops in May 2008** researchers from the Deepening Democracy and Violence, Participation & Citizenship groups got together to reflect on how they had used participatory video in their work and some of the benefits and disadvantages.

Citizenship DRC researchers agreed that participatory video is:

- A visual representation. People seeing themselves on camera is powerful, it is irrefutable evidence, like a mirror;
- A document of social change. It is a holistic and realistic picture of the community and their analysis of their situation and change in their lives;
- A tool for further social mobilisation and action;
- A useful accountability tool.

They described advantages as being:

- Community members identified important issues;
- PV can be used to explore alternatives
- It can help consolidate the views of research participants at the end of the research process
- PV like theatre helps to provide a “thick” description

- It is a less euro-centric way of capturing communities and individuals
- It is useful as a verbatim record of sensitive data where turn of phrase and forms of communication matter.

They described disadvantages as being:

- PV can be superficial – how can you deepen the reflection?
- There were differences of opinions between community members about what should be filmed (i.e. weddings, trees)
- Introducing the topic can be difficult. The broad topic of ‘change’ led to diverse subjects.
- PV alone is not enough, it must be used in conjunction with other methods
- It is difficult to do the editing in the field
- It is impossible to cover everyone’s interviews and opinions.

In the next year, Citizenship DRC researchers will reflect and document their experience of using participatory video and develop new versions of the video material to help communicated Citizenship DRC research findings to policy makers and other audiences.

## North-south sharing of experience: Champions of Participation

The Citizenship DRC (in collaboration with Logolink, DFID and the Department for Communities and Local Government -CLG) organised two learning events in 2007 and 2008. Government officials, elected councillors and citizen representatives from twelve different countries shared their experiences and discussed the challenges of involving citizens in local governance. In May 2007, 44 people (24 from the UK and 20 from 14 other countries) came together for a workshop, UK sites visits to local authorities and a policy dialogue with Angela Smith, MP. They comprised elected officials, including mayors from the Philippines and Brazil; city councillors from New Orleans and UK authorities; local government officials and other service providers; community activists; workers from local and national NGOs; academics and representatives of central government in the UK and in India.

The event focused on how local government can encourage and empower citizens to participate in local politics and contribute to decisions that affect their communities. Although there has been emphasis and focus on how civil society engages in government and on institutional design and processes for participation, earlier Citizenship DRC research has shown that little attention has been paid to the role of champions of participation inside government, whether they be elected officials or government officers.

Over the past ten years in the UK, participation policy and practice has undergone a dramatic shift. Local government now routinely consults citizens about services and other issues and the community and voluntary sector is included in local partnership arrangements. On 24 January 2008, 16 of the UK participants (front-line government officials) met with Hazel Blears, MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to exchange views and experiences of championing participatory democracy within local government. They also talked more

specifically about the implementation of the new UK Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which states that councils have a 'duty to involve' citizens. Participants from Nigeria, South Africa, China, USA, Bulgaria and Spain joined the meeting via video and telephone links.

Blears said: *"The international element of this is quite special. Often the pitfalls in the UK are that we over-engineer everything. We use exclusive language. Lessons from these countries are excellent in helping us think through what we can do."*

The value of the international exchange since June 2007 was evident with participants applying new learning to their own contexts. Shazia Hussein from Tower Hamlets, London, for example, applied learning from the champions of participation workshop in June 2007 in the process of developing Tower Hamlet's Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Communities strategy.

Mike Huggins, City Manager in Wisconsin, US, said of the June 2007 event: *"For me it was both transformational and transactional experience. Opportunities to look at democracy and citizen participation in different contexts gave me so many insights into my experiences. As I listened to the champions at the workshop and saw their efforts to expand democracy in contexts where it is not very easy renewed my passion and energy for participatory democracy. And seeing things in a different culture gave me ideas about what to do at the local level."*

Lessons from the Champions work have now been assembled in a high-quality publication around the theme 'Engaging Citizens in Local Governance.' The pack includes 10 case studies drawn from north and south on citizen engagement, a policy briefing for the UK audience, a workshop report and a CD of other resources. The pack has now been widely distributed, including to every local government chief executive in the UK, as well as to international audiences.

### 3.3 Communication and policy influence

Given the relevance of many of the Citizenship DRC research themes to current debates in policy and practice, there is a huge potential for the issues explored by the network to influence policy debates and practice at the local, national and global levels, as the example of the Champions of Participation project (above) perhaps indicates. The Citizenship DRC is committed to closely integrating research, communications, and policy influence and social change. Research communication in the Citizenship DRC often employs a collaborative and participatory approach to creating spaces for engagement with the research process by involving a diverse range of research participants, partner organisations, researchers, activists, government officials and policy makers. This is linked to a broad approach to communicating and disseminating knowledge and information generated by the research, which targets a wide range of audiences and creates links and synergies between local, national and international levels. To enhance this work, the Citizenship DRC provides support for learning within the network about different methods and approaches to communication, including strengthening the capacities of all partner organisations as appropriate. Finally, there is also commitment across the Citizenship DRC to diverse forms of internal communication necessary to build the Citizenship DRC itself as an effective network of researchers and practitioners.

Based on these principles, the Citizenship DRC has a clear set of communications objectives, elaborated and refined through workshops and planning exercises. They include:

- To contribute to new or better policy at local, national and international levels;
- To help to generate social awareness among groups sharing a common set of problems from different social positions and locations;
- To increase access to information generated by research;
- To facilitate internal communication, reflection and learning.

The sections below review some of the key communication activities over the past year that have contributed towards meeting these objectives. For more detail, read the communications strategy attached as an annex to the March 2006 planning report.

During the Mid-Term Review, 25 participants in the Citizenship DRC's working group meetings in South Africa were asked, "*What is the most significant change in the external environment to which your Citizenship DRC work has contributed?*"

Responses highlighted the many levels at which the Citizenship DRC is achieving impact:

- Putting citizens back into the debate on how to build effective democratic societies, e.g. through the Champions of Participation workshops that influenced new UK legislation and introducing the 'seeing like a citizen' perspective to key democracy donors at a meeting in the UK;
- New concepts of 'democratic practices' taught in graduate courses in the UK, South Africa and Brazil;
- New ways of engaging with policy-makers and stakeholders fostered by participatory research methods including video, e.g. in Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Nigeria;
- Changing the social development minister of Chiapas's perspective on accountability (Mexico) and the City of Cape Town's view of community participation in city planning (South Africa);
- Increased collaboration between Christian and Muslim communities in Nigeria through working with youth on their understanding of violence;
- Achieving improvements to health systems in Brazil and enhancing Aboriginal participation in debates on healthcare in Canada;
- Enabling a support group for men living with HIV in Cape Town to receive support (South Africa);
- Building new networks among academics, movements, NGOs and policy makers in Brazil, and catalysing the creation of a district-wide human rights network working on land policy in Kenya;
- Facilitating joint discussion between academics and practitioners in India leading to local level changes.

## Zed books series

One of the principle outlets of the Citizenship DRC material – which is aimed at the multiple audiences named above – is the Zed Book series on Claiming Citizenship. In earlier years of the Citizenship DRC, four volumes in the series were published, each linking local case studies from Citizenship DRC partners and others with overall conceptual and normative debates in the literature. Each has also been accompanied by a short IDS policy briefing.

During the last year, the Citizenship DRC finalised arrangements with Zed Books for the next two books in the series. The first of these, edited by Lisa Thompson and Chris Tapscott, from

the University of the Western Cape, offers a unique southern perspective on social movements, a topic that has to date been dominated by northern voices. Draft chapters for this book are in hand, and are currently being edited.

In addition, the series will publish results of a separately funded research project on how citizens change national policies. Focusing on case studies of 'successful' citizen engagement for policy change in eight countries (Brazil, Chile, Mexico, India, South Africa, Turkey, Philippines and Morocco), the book is currently being edited by John Gaventa, Rosemary McGee and Gary Hawes. The case studies are already available as web publications (through the Citizenship DRC website).

In addition, during the year the Spanish version of the book on Inclusive Citizenship was published in Mexico, and a Portuguese version of the Spaces for Change volume was commissioned.

## Sharing Citizenship DRC research with academic communities

Citizenship DRC researchers have been active in sharing their work with the wider research and academic community, for example through the following activities:

- ADRA in Angola presented some of their research results to a *Seminar on Poverty, Inequality and Social Participation* organised by the Centre of Investigation of Catholic University (CETC), IDS (Institute of Development Studies) and IBIS (Education for Development – Danish NGO). The audience comprised academics and civil society professionals.
- PRIA (India) in collaboration with Citizenship DRC organised its *5th International Conference on Citizenship & Governance* under the theme of 'Re-visioning Social Transformation in the 21st century' at YMCA, New Delhi from 27- 29 February, 2008. It was the closing conference of a series that began in 2003 and was attended by about 60 academics and practitioners, with world chair speakers and panelists. In total, thirty people presented their papers, including Julie Thekkudan who reported on PRIA's work on 'women's livelihoods, global markets and Citizenship'.
- In October 2007, Vera Schattan Coelho from CEBRAP gave a seminar at PRIA on **Brazilian Participatory Institutions: Promises and Challenges** during an exchange visit relating to the work both partners are doing within the Deepening Democracy theme. In October 2008, Vera Schattan Coelho also presented her work at a working group of the International Sociological Association, meeting in Sweden.
- Peter Newell and Rosalba Icaza participated in a panel on civil society and regionalism as part of the **International Studies Association meeting** in San Francisco in March 2008.
- Melissa Leach, Rebecca Cassidy and Steve Robins presented their work on AIDS and Citizenship and the *ESRC* conference on Cultural Citizenship at Oxford in September 2008
- Marj Mayo, Linda Waldman and Peter Newell gave a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the **International Society for Third Sector Research in Barcelona**, drawing on their research projects within the Citizen Engagement in a Globalising World theme.



## Dialogue with stakeholders

In addition, partners have been active in organising encounters with the diverse stakeholders relevant to the Citizenship DRC's work, and facilitating dialogue based on the findings of the research and the different perspectives of various stakeholder groups. In many cases these encounters have formed an integral part of the research process. The following examples illustrate the range of activities undertaken by members of the various research groups and the coordination team:

### *Deepening Democracy*

- ADRA presented some of their results to the **VII National Community Meeting** in Angola, involving about 60 participants including representatives of associations from five provinces, deputies of National Assembly/Legislative Power, representatives of local and central government and other ADRA partners from national and international NGOs. ADRA also presented their work at the **First Provincial Conference of Civil Society in Benguela** (involving around 70 CSO representatives) and at the **First National Conference of CSOs** (around 150 people). These presentations focused on communicating the experience of mobilisation at the local level and how these groups had communicated their demands with decision makers, donors and so on. These experiences are a new phenomenon, only possible since the opening up of the regime for electoral democracy.
- UWC in South Africa has held a series of workshops with policy makers in government and NGO and CBO networks. After the success and positive feedback from the first Policy Advocacy workshop held in December 2006, a second highly successful policy **workshop on Service Delivery, Governance and Participation** took place in November 2007 at Erinvale Estate in Somerset West, hosted by ACCEDE, where issues of citizenship, participation and development pertaining to service delivery were discussed at a workshop with officials from provincial and local government, as well as with Community Development Workers (CDWs), NGOs and CBOs.
- PRIA arranged presentations to two groups of stakeholders (the CSR fraternity and social activists) on two of its studies: "**Women's livelihoods and global engagements**" and "**Reviving the Agenda of the Social Justice Committee: Civil Society and Citizens Participating in the Institution of the Local Governance**". The main purpose of such focused sharing exercises was to generate some reflections on issues of sustainability and empowerment emerging from the findings.
- As part of its study on Social Justice PRIA organised a **reflection workshop with the social justice committee members and local civil society organisations** in October 2007 at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat. Vera Schattan Coelho from CEBRAP attended the workshop and interacted with the participants and shared her experience on local governance from Brazil.
- BRAC University has conducted a series of **one-on-one presentations** of their findings to each of the organisations involved in their research, starting in Feb 2008, leading up to planned joint presentations with each of these organisations at a seminar in July 2008. The participatory videos from each of the organisations were also screened during these meetings.
- In the UK, IDS collaborated with Demos, the London-based think tank, to publish a paper **Democratising Engagement: What the UK can learn from international experience** by Andrea Cornwall, applying lessons from the Citizenship DRC's global research to debates about

participation and accountability in the UK. This was launched at an event hosted by Demos in April 2008.

- Also in the UK, John Gaventa and Jibo Ibrahim from the Nigerian team shared their work on Deepening Democracy at a conference on Democracy, Politics and Development held in Wilton Park in October 2007. The conference was sponsored by DFID, the World Bank Institute and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Also in October, John Gaventa and CARG member Evelina Dagnino made presentations at a conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil on 'Participation: Cooptation or Transformation?'

### Influencing policy through the research process: experience in Brazil

The fieldwork for the Deepening Democracy project in Acre culminated with a workshop in the state capital, Rio Branco, attended by more than 30 indigenous representatives. Following discussion of the project's findings the indigenous participants developed a list of demands for changes to strengthen participation and enhance accountability in the health system, and presented these to state and federal government representatives at the end of the workshop.

The Acre State Health Secretariat then invited project researcher Alex Shankland to attend the State Health Conference in September 2007 in order to provide support for the inclusion of indigenous demands in the Conference agenda. Indigenous delegates at the Conference managed to secure the approval of several resolutions based on their demands, which have now officially been incorporated into state government policy.

By making contact with a Federal Senator for Acre who was attending the Conference, an opportunity arose to take the project national: the advocacy video which had been produced during the project was screened at the Senate during the Brazilian "Week of Indigenous Peoples" in April 2008, with four indigenous leaders from Acre attending to discuss their experiences with national-level indigenous representatives, NGO campaigners and Senate advisors.

Reinforcing the national dimension, the Acre case study's four researchers are all now involved (alongside colleagues from Saude Sem Limites CEBRAP and IDS) in helping the Ministry of Health and the World Bank reshape Brazil's indigenous health service, many aspects of which are building on the lessons from the project. In Acre, contacts with the State Health Secretariat and the Senator's office have continued, with a series of meetings and advocacy events combining to keep up the pressure on recalcitrant health service managers, diminishing the incidence of corrupt and racist practices and gradually reshaping the service on the ground into one which guarantees greater access and control for Acre's indigenous minority.

(FROM ALEX SHANKLAND'S RESEARCH PROJECT)

### *Citizen Engagement in a Globalising World*

- Rosalba Icaza from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands and Rajesh Tandon from PRIA attended the **International Forum of Montreal (FIM) meeting on Civil Society and Regional Multilateralism**, which was an opportunity to meet with activists, including women from the International Network on Gender and Trade and Canadian activists from Common Frontiers, and learn from their experiences of engagement around regional mechanisms of governance.
- As part of his research project, Marcelo Saguier (FLACSO, Argentina) attended the **Summit of the Peoples from the South** (Cumbre de los Pueblos del Sur), held in Montevideo, Uruguay in December 2007. Organised by the Hemispheric Social Alliance, a transnational coalition of trade unions and social organisations, the central theme of this summit was the importance of

regional integration processes in South America as opportunities for deepening democracy and citizenship.

- Rosalba Icaza, Peter Newell and Marcelo Saguier organised a workshop at a **meeting of trade activists from Latin America in Havana**, Cuba in April 2008. The meeting focused on the representation of social movements and the extent to which strategies aimed at democratising trade politics are able to construct new understandings and practices of citizenship.
- Marj Mayo from Goldsmith's has drawn on the Citizenship DRC work she has been doing with John Gaventa for several presentations and papers, including an address at the **European Society for Research on the Education of Adults** research network on 'Local in Global, Adult Learning and Community Development' in Poland, May 2008, and a paper for the International Journal on Citizenship Education.

### *Violence, Participation and Citizenship*

The participatory methodological approaches adopted by members of the VPC group mean that stakeholder dialogue is deeply embedded in the research process. For example:

- In Nigeria, Colette Harris, investigating the transformative potential of education, and the TFDC, exploring community theatre as a tool for development, directly engaged potential victims and perpetrators of violence in analysing the causes and practices of violence. For instance, through this work Christian groups in Kaduna recognised that religion was in no way responsible for violence although it had been misused in the past as a way of 'othering' people and therefore legitimising attacks on them.
- In the *favelas* of Rio (Brazil) Joanna Wheeler's research project engaged **community members as researchers** themselves with the aim of generating social action as well as insights into the real impact of everyday violence.
- In Mexico Carlos Cortez's work exploring the inadequacies of state responses to violence has involved working with a human rights group to **develop a collective response** to the weakness of state institutions with respect to dealing with pervasive violence in the region. Together with academics and post-graduate students from the Autonomous Metropolitan University, Cortez designed a course as a space for dialogue, titled 'Social Action against Violence and for the Promotion of Rights'. The course facilitated reflection and the construction of collective knowledge by interweaving of research, training and action. The experience brought together people with different experiences and educational levels - including community outreach workers who had completed only primary education, the professionally qualified and students with varying levels of education. All were linked with a range of civil society organisations actively engaged in work to advance the rights of the population.

### **Dialogue with donors**

In addition to the activities above, the Citizenship DRC has continued also to share its results with DFID and with other donors and NGOs. In the UK, for instance, John Gaventa has contributed to several DFID workshops, including a seminar on its new Civil Society Policy Paper. Lyla Mehta shared her work at meetings of the Social Development Advisors. Smaller workshops around Citizenship DRC findings were held with DFID offices in India and Bangladesh. John Gaventa also worked with DFID and the Open Society Institute to organise and facilitate an international workshop for donors on 'Innovations in Accountability and Transparency through Citizen

Engagement: the role of donors in supporting and sustaining change', held in June 2008 at the Bellagio Study and Conference Centre. In addition, he shared research findings at workshops with Sida and Forum Syd (Stockholm September 2007), the Ford Foundation (Brazil, October 2007), a meeting of Swiss NGOS (Zurich December 2007), Oxfam (IDS, May 2008), SDC (Switzerland June 2008), the Carnegie UK Trust (July 2007) the National Conference for Voluntary Organisations (London March 2008) and the Conference on World Affairs (Colorado, April 2008).

### 3.4 Developing the network and partnerships

The Citizenship DRC is designed to strengthen not just individual partner organisations and researchers but also to develop the network as a whole and the partnerships within which it is embedded. One benefit of this has been the ability to incorporate work from 12 countries through a mix of seven institutional partnerships and a wider range of 'associate researcher' relationships. As the Citizenship DRC is entering its final phase in its current form the past year has seen much attention invested in strengthening the partners and the network to continue collaborative and innovative research on Citizenship DRC topics beyond 2010 and without the support of the current arrangements. Two significant areas of work towards these ends are the creation of new institutions committed to research in these areas, within partner organisations, and the expansion and nurturing of collaborative relationships by each partner with other organisations and networks. Some examples of recent achievements in these areas are given below.

#### Institutional development

The primary achievement in terms of institutional development this year has been the establishment in September 2007 of *ACCEDE – the African Centre on Citizenship and Democracy* within the School of Government at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. ACCEDE is to play a critical role in mobilising scholars and resources towards a constructive but critical examination of the factors that support or inhibit a more inclusive citizenship in Africa. ACCEDE has replaced an earlier centre which focused on regional integration issues rather than citizenship, democracy and development. ACCEDE will include associate researchers from UWC and elsewhere, research fellows from across Africa and elsewhere, and postgraduate students. Indeed, it is already responsible for a number of research programmes including:

- A Ford Foundation funded programme on New Forms of Citizenship, which is ongoing until December 2009, and has established a close research relationship with the Foundation for Contemporary Research, a non-profit advocacy organisation working on governance and participation in Cape Town;
- Dynamics of Building a Better Society, a component of a broader research programme carried out in partnership with Belgian universities and with EU funding;
- The South Africa component of the project AIDS and Democracy in southern Africa, in partnership with Uppsala University.

It has also already established linkages with networks such as Logolink and Good Governance Learning network, and is discussing joint research proposals with the Truman School, University of Missouri.

ACCEDE has also taken the lead in putting together a new volume for the Citizenship DRC's series of books published by Zed (see earlier section on publications).

In Angola, ADRA has developed a proposal to create a Research Centre and is negotiating with other partners interested in research in Angola. The design and methodological focus of this centre have been strongly influenced by the experience of working in the Citizenship DRC, with three-fold aims to work simultaneously on research, capacity building and policy influencing and communication, and a commitment to using participatory and collaborative research approaches. At the same time ADRA is in discussion with two institutions (Chr. Michelsen Institute in Norway and Angola Catholic University) who are the implementers of a large research programme in Angola over the next three years, with a view to ADRA participating in some of the 50 planned research projects.

In Bangladesh the BRAC University team held a second meeting of its steering committee in November 2007. The Steering Committee involves all the partner organisations and advisors to the Citizenship DRC research in Bangladesh, and the meeting included an update on the research, the field experience and progress with the participatory video workshops.

### Notes on collaboration from CEBRAP, Brazil

In the last two years we have experienced a closer relationship with local social movements and communities both in the periphery of the city of São Paulo and in rural areas of the Vale do Ribeira. This has happened as our research has been looking for a better understanding of the conditions under which participatory mechanisms contribute to coordination between the actors and the institutions, facilitating the convergence between democracy and development.

We also established closer relations with State departments and Foundations. In this sense, we are discussing possible projects with Ford Foundation and the Ministry of Agrarian Development. We are also taking part together with IDS and SSL in a project contracted by FUNASA/Ministry of Health and supported by the World Bank. The project aims to improve the access of indigenous people to the Brazilian Public Health System.

## Wider collaborations and partnerships

Partly as a result of their involvement in the Citizenship DRC, we have also seen the growing involvement of Citizenship DRC partners in other international collaborations and networks. For instance, ADRA in Angola is now participating in other Southern African research networks; Vera Schattan Coelho and Bettina Von Lieres are involved in the Deepening Democracy Consortium and attended their meetings this year in Washington DC, and Rajesh Tandon from PRIA has shared Citizenship DRC work through his involvement with the Task Force on Citizen Driven Change, co-convened by Alan Fowler and Kees Biekart and hosted by the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. In addition, in October 2008, the Citizenship DRC is collaborating with the Network on Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe (CINEFOGO) and the ESRC research programme on Non-Governmental Public Action to organise an international colloquium on 'Citizen Participation and Democratic Engagement: Learning between North and South.'

### 3.5 Governance and coordination

A coordination team based at IDS continues to support the day-to-day management of the Citizenship DRC, following plans that are developed by the Steering Committee which comprises the convenors of each partner/country team, the two convenors of each thematic working group plus the coordination team members. The coordination team includes the director (John Gaventa), a research manager (Joanna Wheeler, this year partly on leave with the role covered by Kate Hamilton), a programme administrative coordinator (Graeme McGregor, who replaced Georgina Powell-Stevens in November 2007), and a research and communications officer (Alison Dunn until June 2008, Nicholas Benequista from September 2008). The Steering Committee functions through a combination of face-to-face meetings and quarterly conference calls, this year having its main meeting in January 2008 in Delhi, which focused on agreeing the plans and budget for Phases III & IV of the Citizenship DRC, and an additional brief session following the working group meetings in May in South Africa.

The **Centre Advisory Review Group (CARG)** provides a broader oversight function and meets annually: the last meeting took place in October 2007 at IDS. Members of the CARG are:

- Fiona Wilson, Roskilde University, Denmark/IDS, UK (chair)
- Marian Barnes, University of Brighton
- Ben Cousins, University of Western Cape, South Africa
- Evelina Dagnino, Universidade de Campinas, Brazil
- James Deane, Communication for Social Change Consortium, UK
- Eghosa Osaghae, Ibaddin University, Nigeria
- Mary Thompson, UK Department for International Development.

The CARG meeting also involved a useful discussion of options for the final synthesis phases of the Citizenship DRC, generating ideas in the areas of research, communication, capacity building and network development which have informed subsequent development of plans in these areas.

TABLE 5. ACTIONS AGREED AT CARG MEETING, OCTOBER 2007

ACTION REQUIRED	BY WHOM	BY WHEN	ACTION TAKEN
Re-write research sections of the draft Annual Report	Citizenship DRC Convenors	November 2007	Done, November 2007
Provide feedback on revised Annual Report	CARG	November 2007	Done, November 2007
Provide feedback on Log Frame, to be revised to better reflect the Citizenship DRC's unique contribution	CARG	November 2007	Solicited Nov 07, logframe revised Jan 08
Invite CARG members to future e-discussions	Citizenship DRC Convenors	Ongoing	Evelina Dagnino, Ben Cousins, Fiona Wilson included in DD e-dialogue, February 08; Marian Barnes included in Teaching & Learning e-dialogue, July 08
Write interim research reports based on themes	Citizenship DRC Convenors	January 2008	Done and presented at January 2008 Steering Committee meeting

## 4 Lessons Learnt

### 4.1 Mid-term review

A key process during this year has been the Mid-Term Review of the Citizenship DRC, commissioned by DFID, which took place in May-June 2008. The team of three reviewers focused on different aspects of the Citizenship DRC as follows:

- L David Brown, Hauser Centre for Nonprofit Organisations at Harvard University – overall progress plus institutional arrangements and network development;
- Stuart Corbridge, London School of Economics – research content;
- Liz Carlile, International Institute for Environment and Development – communication and influencing agenda.

The MTR concluded that the Citizenship DRC is making good progress towards achieving its purpose, and its outputs are likely to be largely achieved. It also made a number of very useful recommendations about the strategy and focus for the remaining phases of the work, which are being incorporated into plans during 2008-09. The following are some of the key points made in the MTR:

- The purpose of the Citizenship DRC, which is ‘to produce and communicate knowledge on

citizenship, participation and accountability which is compelling to policy makers, development organisations, researchers, activists and citizens engaging in issues of 'inclusive citizenship and democracy' remains relevant, and partners intend to build on the network's relationships and capacities to extend its activities into the future;

- In this phase the Citizenship DRC is paying more attention to the comparative dimension of its research projects, which comes across in very open email and workshop exchanges between researchers;
- The research groups are producing high-quality research outputs on a wide range of research topics;
- Some excellent publications are being generated, including the Champions of Participation pack and the series of Zed books, the latter having produced spin-offs such as co-publications and translated versions in various partner countries;
- There are good examples of influencing across all partners, from high-level policy influencing to engagement with the media;
- The network has developed strong commitment and good connectivity between partners, premised partly on financial and administrative transparency;
- The Citizenship DRC has been successful in building capacities for research and communication among its members, catalysing institutional development among its partners and in building capacities for constituents from communities to academics to government officials.

At the same time, the MTR raised a number of challenges for this stage of the Citizenship DRC's work and made a number of recommendations. These include:

- the need for more synthetic and generalisable findings, drawing from the case study materials.
- the need to use and 'test' our findings through more robust engagement with other academic literature and policy debates;
- the need to develop three to four topline policy messages and communicate these more proactively and strategically;
- the need to articulate lessons from the life of the programme, especially about building participatory forms of analysis and inquiry, working across countries and disciplines, and managing such a diverse network.

Findings from the MTR have been taken up in the planning process for Phase IV of the Citizenship DRC, to be carried out from April 2009 – September 2010, and the proposal for that phase will include a detailed response to each of the recommendations. However, the MTR re-enforces some of the broader lessons which have been learned to date about our work, especially related to synthesis, partnerships, and sustainability.



## *4.2 Lessons on research: The need for deeper synthesis*

The breadth and diversity of the Citizenship DRC network and the way in which research agendas have been driven from the bottom-up within it have generated a wealth of empirical insights and copious outputs over the life of the Citizenship DRC. At the end of Round 1 (2005) efforts were made to pull together the work that had been generated up to that point, resulting in a number of useful synthesis products. However, it proved difficult to do more with such a diverse body of work than summarise some key findings from across the work, in the short space of time that was planned. Thus in this round the Steering Committee made a decision to bring the issue of research synthesis onto the agenda much earlier in the programme, and to go about it in a different way.

Firstly, new case study work that has been supported in this round has largely been completed by early 2008 (with final outputs being worked on during 2008-9), so that the research agenda over the final 18 months of this round can focus entirely on synthesising the findings fully. Secondly, synthesis is being seen as more than simply summing up the totality of the Citizenship DRC's work, and will involve deeply analysing and unpacking the threads that run through different parts of the work. Reflecting the most innovative aspects of the Citizenship DRC's work, particular attention will be paid to comparative work drawing on the empirical studies in multiple countries, conceptual and theoretical developments which will contribute to relevant debates, and drawing together methodological lessons. The synthesis process is also being shaped by the parallel objectives around policy influencing and capacity building with a priority given to developing analysis of the issues that will inform powerful policy messages and choosing projects which support further development of partners' capacities in the long term.

During this year the synthesis process has been initiated with a series of discussions at each of the key meetings (October 2007, January 2008, May 2008), culminating in a request for proposals for specific synthesis initiatives which will be considered by the Steering Committee and CARG in October 2008.

## *4.3 Lessons on partnerships*

One of the biggest challenges and strengths of the Citizenship DRC has been the development of robust partnerships across the network. As noted in a previous section, these have been noted in the MTR as being successful and open, and to have contributed significantly to the quality of the Citizenship DRC's work. Partners have found it stimulating and challenging to bring their work into a multi-country space and to open it up to scrutiny and constructive feedback from a diverse set of collaborators from different disciplinary, institutional and geographical perspectives, leading to better quality research. At the same time, being part of an international network and gaining access to the much broader and more powerful audiences it commands has enabled partners to broaden the impact of their work and start to redress the imbalance between southern and northern voices in the relevant global debates. For these reasons there is a commitment within the network to sustain partnerships beyond the life of the Citizenship DRC in its current form. Partners are looking at identifying among themselves potential hubs and clusters for ongoing collaboration on areas of shared interest.

## 4.4 *Lessons on sustainability*

The strength of the Citizenship DRC as a network has not been achieved easily or without significant investment of thought, time and money. Regular discussions across the network show that many lessons have been learnt along the way – both positive and negative – which partners are applying to other collaborative ventures. As development research is increasingly being supported through similar multi-sited, large-scale programmes of work it will be important to capture these lessons in ways that make them available to other research networks in the future.

Meanwhile within the Citizenship DRC partners are concerned to maintain their relationships and continue to work with each other once the programme in its current incarnation (with IDS at its hub) comes to an end in 2010. They intend to incubate new collaborative initiatives during the final stages of the Citizenship DRC which will continue beyond 2010, allowing the work to evolve and be shared more widely with other stakeholders over time. Spin-off projects and networks will also seek to continue building research capacity in participating institutions and countries. Citizenship DRC participants consider it an important priority that the ten-year investment that has been made in the current network should be capitalised upon to produce further significant impact in the years ahead, and that the hard-won momentum of the work is not lost. This is also an important challenge for DFID as it develops its plans for its future research programmes and seeks to continue to strengthen southern research capacities. In particular, the MTR recommends, that DFID and the DRC should do more to extract lessons from existing DRCs for leading and organising future research networks. And, it also concludes, ‘DFID should commit to supporting Southern-led research networks in the future and publicize the criteria for launching such networks in the near future.’