

Department of Political Science Department Seminar

Dr Greg Mills & Dr Jeffrey Herbst

"Prospects for Democratization in Africa"

Moderator: Dr Elaine Tan

Wednesday, 14th Feb 2018

12.00pm to 1.30pm

PS Staff Meeting Room, AS1, #04-01

National University of Singapore

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ABSTRACT

In most years, a plurality of elections worldwide are held in Africa. At the same time, promoting democratization in a region that contains the poorest countries in the world is inherently difficult. We will explore trends in democratization since 1989, discuss current prospects, and review the best ways that outsiders can help promote democratic forces.

BIO

Dr Greg Mills heads the Johannesburg-based Brenthurst Foundation, established in 2005 by the Oppenheimer family to strengthen African economic performance. He holds degrees from the Universities of Cape Town and Lancaster, and was the National Director of the SA Institute of International Affairs from 1996-2005. He has directed numerous reform projects in African presidencies (including in 2017 for the Ghana President, Kingdom of Lesotho, Lagos Government, and Nigeria's SE Regional Development Organisation), sat on the Danish Africa Commission and on the African Development Bank's high-level panel on fragile states, and served four deployments to Afghanistan. A member of the advisory board of the Royal United Services Institute, he is the author of the best-selling books *Why Africa Is Poor and Africa's Third Liberation*, and most recently, together with President Olusegun Obasanjo, Jeff Herbst and Major General (rtd) Dickie Davis *Making Africa Work: A Handbook for Economic Success*. His leisure interests include cycling and motorsport. A grandson of the pre-war Grand Prix driver Billy Mills, he received his national colours for motorsport in 2016, and earlier his SA provincial colours for rowing and motorsport. He is married to the artist Janet Wilson and they have three (very!) strong-willed children: Amelia, Beatrix and William.



Jeffrey Herbst was most recently President and CEO of the Newseum in Washington, DC. The Newseum champions the First Amendment freedoms and the right of free expression in the United States and around the world. Previously, he was president of Colgate University, a leading liberal arts college in the United States. He has also served as Provost and Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Miami University. As such, he was the chief academic office for a university with 21,000 students on three American campuses and one in Europe. Herbst started his career as a professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University where he taught for eighteen years. His primary research interests are in the politics of sub-Saharan Africa, the politics of political and economic reform, and the politics of boundaries. His most recent book is Jeffrey Herbst, Greg Mills, Dickie Davis and Olusegun Obasanjo, *Making Africa Work: A Handbook for Economic Success* (London: Hurst, 2017) and (with Greg Mills), *How South Africa Works and Must Do Better* (PanMacmillan, 2015). He is also the author of *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* (Princeton University Press, second edition, 2014) and many other books and articles. He has also taught at the University of Zimbabwe, the University of Ghana, Legon, the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape. In 2004-5, he was a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Ph.D., Yale University.