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## Why Elections Fail

Pippa Norris

WZB Distinguished Lecture in Social Sciences

Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 5 p.m.  
Room A 300

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## Invitation

Discussants: **Ruud Koopmans** and **Justin Valasek**  
Moderated by **Wolfgang Merkel**

The spread of elections to all parts of the globe has been one of the most dramatic developments transforming our world during the twentieth century. Yet, as numerous reports have highlighted, the quality of contemporary contests commonly fails. Contentious elections undermine the legitimacy of elected authorities, political participation, and stability in fragile states. Pippa Norris determines the reasons why elections are undermined by numerous kinds of flaws. She argues that rules preventing political actors from manipulating electoral governance are needed to secure integrity, although at the same time officials also need sufficient resources and capacities to manage elections effectively. Drawing on new evidence, her study determines the most effective types of strategies for strengthening the quality of electoral governance around the world.

**Pippa Norris** is the McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, ARC Laureate Fellow and Professor of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney, and Director of the Electoral Integrity Project ([www.electoralintegrityproject.com](http://www.electoralintegrityproject.com)).

**Wolfgang Merkel** is Director of the WZB research unit Democracy and Democratization.

**Ruud Koopmans** is Director of the WZB research unit Migration, Integration, Transnationalization.

**Justin Valasek** is Research Fellow of the research unit Economics of Change.

*To register, please reply by December 14, 2015 to Martina Sander: [veranstaltungen@wzb.eu](mailto:veranstaltungen@wzb.eu)*

*The WZB provides child care during the lecture. If you are interested, please respond by December 4, indicating the number of children and their age, to Marie Unger: [marie.unger@wzb.eu](mailto:marie.unger@wzb.eu)*

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