

School/Department:	Institute of Social Studies
Project Title:	Is Civic Activism a Substitute for Weak Democratic Institutions or a Complement to Strong Democratic Institutions?
Abstract:	<p>This PhD project is part of the Indices of Social Development database project of the Institute of Social Studies (www.IndSocDev.org). The ISD database consists of six indices, each consisting of 10-35 underlying indicators, for almost every country in the world. It covers every 5 years in the period 1990-2010, while the next data point will be constructed for the year 2015. The six indices are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civic Activism - Clubs & Associations - Intergroup Cohesion - Interpersonal Safety & Trust - Inclusion of Minorities - Gender Equality <p>The PhD project finds its inspiration in the Arab Spring events and the debate that followed. Some claim that civil society protests emerged as a consequence of failing democracies. Others claim that the protests are a sign of democratic strength. But what is the role of democratic institutions? This PhD project will focus on one of the ISD variables, namely Civic Activism. It will carefully analyze with a variety of quantitative techniques (parametric and non-parametric) to what extent civic activism occurs alongside strong democratic institutions or, to the contrary, despite the presence of strong democratic institutions, or perhaps even because of weak democratic institutions. A different way to frame the question is about the relationship between representative democracy and participative democracy: the role of formal politics versus the role of civil society actors in shaping a country's policies and development.</p>
Requirements of candidate:	Background: strength in quantitative analysis (ability work with STATA or similar software) and demonstrated interest in development studies and/or social or institutional economics.

	<p>Master degree: Yes</p> <p>IELTS Grade: 7.0 (minimal 6.0 per component) or TOEFL: 100 (minimal 20 per component)</p>
Supervisor information:	<p>Prof. dr. Irene van Staveren: promotor Professor of Pluralist Development Economics and Director of the Indices of Social Development e-mail: staveren@iss.nl homepage: www.iss.nl/iss_faculty/profiel_metis/1100478/</p> <p>Dr Kees Biekart: co-promotor Associate Professor of Political Sociology e-mail biekart@iss.nl homepage: http://www.iss.nl/iss_faculty/profiel_metis/1100426/</p> <p>Selected publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biekart, K. and Fowler, A. (2013) 'Transforming Activism 2010+: Exploring Ways and Waves. Development and Change 44 (3) 527-46. • Fowler, A. and Biekart, K. (2015) Navigating Polycentric Governance from a Citizen's Perspective: The Rising New Middle Classes Respond. European Journal of Development Research. Vol 44 1-17. • Staveren, I.P. van, Webbink, E., Haan, A. de & Foa, R. (2014). The Last Mile in Analyzing Wellbeing and Poverty : Indices of Social Development. Forum for Social Economics, 43 (1), 8-26. • Staveren, I.P. van (2013). To Measure is to Know? A Comparable Analysis of Gender Indices. Review of Social Economy, 71 (3), 339-372. • Staveren, I.P. van, Pervaiz, Z. & Chaudhary, A.R. (2013). Diversity, Inclusiveness and Social Cohesion. Indices of Social Development Working Paper no. 2013-01. The Hague: Institute of Social Studies. • Staveren, I.P. van & Webbink, E. (2012). Civil Society, Aid and Development: a Cross-Country Analysis. The Hague: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.