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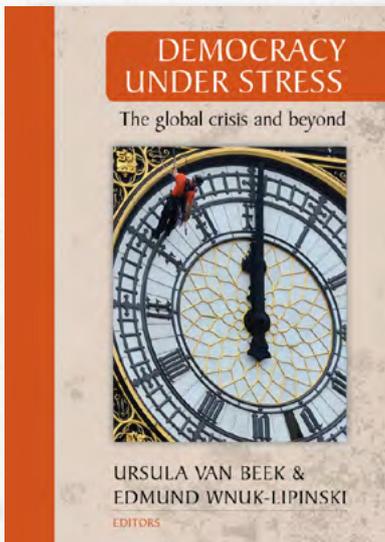
DEMOCRACY UNDER STRESS

The global crisis and beyond

Ursula van Beek • Edmund Wnuk-Lipinski (eds.)

MEDIA RELEASE
9 February 2012

NEW BOOK LOOKS AT WHETHER DEMOCRACY IS UNDER
THREAT FROM THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS



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Is our global democracy under stress following the financial meltdown of 2008-2009 and its fallout? Stellenbosch University (SU) academic Prof Ursula van Beek, with a team of scholars from across the world, investigates precisely this question in the recently published *Democracy Under Stress: The global crisis and beyond*.

According to Van Beek, the book focuses on “the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 and its effects that have seemingly shaken up the political and economic world order.”

Democracy Under Stress is the result of a research project undertaken by the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, and combines contributions by authors from various countries and fields of study. The book helps to illuminate the reasons for – and the responses to – the crisis from differing viewpoints, as it aims to conceptualise what the crisis could mean for the future of democracy.

“The volume compares developed and developing countries, as well as democracies and non-democracies – paying special attention to China’s new place in the world. In conjunction with offering instructive comparisons with the Great Depression of the 1930s, the book is arguably the most comprehensive general assessment of the global crisis to date,” says Van Beek.

Democracy Under Stress was co-edited by Van Beek and Edmund Wnuk-Lipinski, professor of sociology and Rector of Collegium Civitas in Warsaw, Poland. The volume was first published in 2011 by Barbara Budrich Publishers in Germany.

The South African edition, which was initiated and supported by STIAS and the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, has been published by SUN PRESS, an imprint of SUN MeDIA Stellenbosch (www.africansunmedia.co.za). The book is the third in a series on democracy produced by the Transformation Research Initiative (See www.sun.ac.za/tri) headed by Van Beek. It is also the second title in the prestigious STIAS Publication Series and follows the highly-acclaimed *Humanist Imperative in South Africa* edited by Prof John de Gruchy.

Democracy Under Stress (SA edition) will be officially launched at the Wallenberg Research Centre at STIAS on 16 February at 18:00. The keynote speaker at the event will be Prof Hans-Dieter Klingemann from the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB) and Freie Universitaet in Germany. Prof Klingemann is an internationally acclaimed social scientist who in 2011 became the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the European Consortium of Political Research.

If you wish to attend the event, please contact Ms Maria Mouton at mmouton@sun.ac.za or 021 808 2963.

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