



**Conference on**  
**POLITICAL RIGHTS SINCE 1994: SOUTH AFRICAN AND COMPARATIVE**  
**PERSPECTIVES**

**29 – 30 May 2014**

The elections in 2014 will signal 20 years of constitutional democracy in South Africa. To stimulate further academic research on political rights in South Africa, and to commemorate 20 years of democracy, the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC), a Centre of the University of Johannesburg, is excited to announce a conference on 'Political Rights Since 1994: South African and Comparative Perspectives'. The conference is scheduled for 29 and 30 May 2014. Questions that will be addressed in the conference include:

- Is democracy merely casting a ballot or do citizens have participation rights between elections?
- How should elements of representative and participatory democracy be balanced?
- To what extent must political parties themselves be organised in a democratic manner?
- Should there be restrictions on political party funding?
- How should we conceptualize citizenship in South Africa and abroad? Should citizens living abroad and permanent residents be entitled to vote?
- How is the participation of minorities to be developed?
- What can South Africa learn from structures in other countries?
- What is the role of the media in ensuring effective participation?

This conference aims to address these timely questions and to assist in the development of discourse and academic writing around political rights in South Africa. SAIFAC welcomes those interested in presenting at this important conference to submit abstracts to Professor David Bilchitz at [david@saifac.org.za](mailto:david@saifac.org.za). Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words in length and must be submitted by 15 January 2013.

The conference is organised by the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights, and International Law (SAIFAC), a Centre of the University of Johannesburg and is supported by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

We encourage, and would appreciate, the distribution of this call for papers to your networks.

Regards,

Prof David Bilchitz

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