AGENDA
Constitutional Design and Conflict Management
Planning Meeting
June 30, 2010

Session 1:  9:15 – 10:45am
Introductions
Opening Remarks
  ■ Alan Kuperman: CCAPS and CDCM
  ■ Jennifer Widner: Findings and challenges of her past research.
  ■ Joel Barkan: Federalism (its utility for promoting democracy).
  ■ Stefan Wolff: Power-Sharing.
  ■ Eghosa E. Osaghae: Informal aspects of constitutional design
  ■ Joel Barkan: Executive-Legislative relations.
  ■ Comments by any participant on the project, based on their own past work.
  ■ Comments on the annotated bibliography circulated in advance.

Session 2:  11:00am – 12:30pm
Definitions and Scope
  ■ What is included and excluded in “constitutional design”?
  ■ How do we deal with de jure vs. de facto constitutional design?
  ■ How do we address other important causal variables – e.g., resources, culture, corruption, and political institutions that fall outside the definition of “constitutional design” – without losing theoretical focus?
  ■ Should we look beyond the effects of constitutional design to also explore the challenges of making and modifying constitutions in our cases (i.e., constitutional design as a dependent variable)?

Session 3:  1:45 – 3:15pm
Case Selection
  ■ Are there single cases that offer natural experiments – e.g., countries that modified their constitutional design over time but were subject to repeated societal stresses, so that we can explore variations in outcome?
  ■ Do any pairs of cases lend themselves to comparative analysis by a single researcher?
  ■ Is selection bias a concern, and if so how should we avoid it?

Session 4:  3:30 – 5:00pm
Research Design and Methods
  ■ Should our researchers identify discrete societal stresses in their cases – e.g., droughts, refugee influxes, etc. – and then trace how constitutional design either mitigated or exacerbated conflict?
  ■ What other research designs can assess the role of constitutional design on conflict management?
  ■ What are the best primary and secondary sources for the cases we select?