

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF



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# UNKNOWN INTERESTS

CIVIC DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

DELIVERED ON



UNKNOWN INTERESTS ARE PERSISTENT

ON THE ONE HAND, THEY ARE BIG PARTY POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC INTERESTS UNKNOWN TO SOCIETY



ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE COLLECTIVE INTERESTS RELEVANT FOR SOCIETY BUT UNKNOWN TO POLITICS & ADMINISTRATION



UNKNOWN INTERESTS UNDERMINE THE QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY



UNVEILING UNKNOWN INTERESTS IS THEREFORE CRUCIAL



DOING SO REQUIRES A BETTER INSIGHT INTO HOW CIVIC DEMOCRACY WORKS

... BUT ALSO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE

THEIR POLICY INPUT SHOULD BE EQUALLY VALUED AND WEIGHTED BY POLICYMAKERS

THE INTERACTION BETWEEN A RESILIENT CIVIL DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS HELPS TO UNVEIL UNKNOWN INTERESTS

AND CONTRIBUTES TO A MORE ROBUST DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC RULE OF LAW