

**From:** Peter Seyferth  
**To:** Seminar Participants  
**Sent:** 22 June 2011 18:13:09 MESZ  
**Subject:** Democracy and Governance: Plan for the Session at 28 June 2011

Dear Participants,

for the next-to-last time I send you the plan for a session of your seminar “Democracy and Governance”. This time, the session is split in two parts: In the first part there will be an ordinary paper presentation in which some information from a book is reproduced; after that, the discussion will be dominated by the best-prepared. This will happen completely officially and is legitimized by the expert status of the preferred people—others may *indicate* they want to participate, too. In the second part you all should take part in a role play in which you share information that is crucial for people that try to build affinity groups that are autonomous with respect to the state. To this end a number of propagandists, and later you yourselves, will spread ideas coming from left-wing radical literature. In the second part and throughout the following session you will not deal with political science texts, but you will deal in a political-scientifical way with texts. The reason for doing this in a role play is the didactic function of retelling: You learn more when you teach it at the same time. I think it is important that, while playing the role, you do not forget that it is a play (after all, the play is directed against me as the man in charge). Keep a distance to what you learn—it could be wrong or ideologically distorted; maybe you want to use the last quarter of an hour to criticize political-scientifically the “subversive” content of the session. As always, we do have far too little time.

By the way, I believe the next session will not only be instructive but also funny. Please prepare yourself well; the article by Starr/Martínez-Torres/Rosset is excellent.

Best wishes,  
Peter Seyferth

**Plan for the session „Case Studies: Zapatismo (Mexico)“**

When	What	Who
4:00 PM	Desks remain where they are—hooray!	
4:15 PM	Welcoming of seminar participants	Seyferth
4:17 PM	<b>Paper presentation “Zapatismo”</b> Based on the book by Haberland. Aim: description, not criticism.	Presenter xxx
4:32 PM	<b>Discussion with critical representatives</b> Representatives have read scientific articles from peer-reviewed journals and are thus capable of criticizing the slightly too optimistic descriptions given by xxx and Seyferth (each representative has 4min). All participants may ask questions, but only the representatives have a privileged right to speak; they are experts, after all. Answers are given by xxx and Seyferth <b>Two goals:</b> 1) To learn about many informed and critical perspectives on Zapatismo; 2) To feel how others are treated as more important persons (and rightfully so?).	Representatives: xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx
5:02 PM	<b>Subversion from the bottom</b> All participants are divided into the groups ① and ② (13 people each at most). In each group, there are two propagandists that “indoctrinate” two people each (3min), thus building threesome cells. Each threesome cell agitates three more people from the same group face-to-face (3min). Then both topics in a group meet and share reasons and techniques (face-to-face, 3min). Eventually, both groups mix, everyone shares the subversive things they have learned with a person from the other group (6min). <b>Goal:</b> Coming to know unofficial ways of communication about democratic methods and topics (①: horizontal decision making and consensus; ②: how to acquire an autonomous territory without state legitimation).	Propagandists: xxx ① xxx ① xxx ② xxx ②
5:32 PM	<b>Revolution by seminar mob, deposition of useless teacher</b> Somehow the participants organize themselves. They promise not to guillotine Seyferth if he promises to structure the next session horizontally (which he does of course). A certificate of deposition is formulated and handed out to Seyferth (this is the feedback). Two questions should be answered: 1) What good were presentation and expert discussion? 2) What good were subversion and self-empowerment?	Seminar people? Course multitude? Academic avantgarde?
All the time	<b>Caution:</b> This is just a game—Seyferth’s authority is only ostensibly undermined. Actually, he decides on the course of action, sets the goals, and gives the time. You will notice that even pseudo-revolutionaries have to be disciplined to avoid chaos.	Everyone