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ORGANIZATION FOR POLICY
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
[نهاد پژوهش و توسعه]

CALL FOR PAPERS

Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS) invites interested female researchers to contribute to the 4th edition of its annual peer reviewed, *Women and Public Policy Journal (WPPJ)*. This year's journal is dedicated to elections in post-Taliban Afghanistan. The journal will provide an evaluation of evolution of elections, electoral bodies, voting systems, electoral laws, fraud and meddling in the elections, and electoral reforms.

THEME of this year's journal:

Since 2001 Afghanistan has experienced three presidential elections, two parliamentary elections and one provincial councils' elections. All these elections have been held under the auspice and funds from the international community, amounting to over one billion US dollars.

Moreover, except the 2014 presidential and provincial council elections, all other elections were governed by presidential decrees, all issued by former President Hamid Karzai. It was only in July 2013 that Electoral Laws were ratified to govern the 2014 presidential elections.

Transparency has been steadily declining since the 2004 presidential and 2005 parliamentary elections. There were allegations of rigging and gerrymandering in the 2009 presidential elections. The 2014 presidential elections dragged the country to the verge of a civil war following serious allegations of fraud and the issuant standstill between Ghani and Abdullah. The widespread rigging in the 2014 presidential elections also led to a US-brokered National Unity Government in which both of the contending parties agreed to share power. Both parties promised in the NUG agreement to bring necessary reforms and take necessary measures to ensure future elections are free, fair and transparent. The May 2015 parliamentary elections, as a result, was postponed by a presidential decree issued by President Ghani on 19 June 2015, to bring about major reforms in the electoral system, electoral bodies and electoral laws. In January 2016, the IEC announced that the delayed parliamentary elections would be held in October 2016, in September 2016 the new electoral law was passed, and in November 2016 the new IEC and ECC were established. The Afghan government failed to hold the elections on

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the scheduled date because of disagreement on the reforms, and fate of the delayed elections were unclear until the IEC announced in June 2017 that the parliamentary and district councils elections will be held in June 2018. Afghanistan's Presidential Election is also expected in 2019.

Meddling in the presidential elections in 2009 and 2014 have also caused serious debates. There have been serious allegations of meddling by internal parties as well as international actors, bringing the legitimacy and independence of elections under question, thus undermining political legitimacy and political stability. This paints a bleak picture of the future of democratic elections and peaceful transition of power in Afghanistan.

Recently, various sources have raised concerns over whether the 2018 parliamentary and district councils elections will be held or not. Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN), among others, proves that political pressures on the commissioners as well as the tight date set for the elections puts the elections in doubt. Such developments casts doubt on the fate of the 2019 presidential elections as well. At such a critical point in time, Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS) dedicates the 4th edition of its Women and Public Policy Journal (WPPJ) to the topic.

The fourth edition of our Women and Public Policy Journal (WPPJ) will evaluate the evolution of elections, electoral bodies, voting systems, electoral laws, fraud and meddling in the elections, and electoral reforms in Afghanistan.

IN ANALYZING THE EVOLUTION OF ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, THIS YEAR'S JOURNAL WILL HAVE AUTHORS WRITE ON 1 OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- Electoral bodies (the IEC and the ECC)
- Technology and election: The issue of e-Tazkira and voter registration
- The electoral system: Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV) vs. First-pass the ballot voting
- The new electoral law: strengths and weaknesses
- The issue of electoral constituencies
- Corruption and fraud in the elections



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- The role of international community and donor support in elections
- case study: Iraq Elections post-2003
- future of elections in Afghanistan
- women, youth and elections
- role of political parties and elections
- countering electoral violence
- Media and elections
- A book review on elections

DEADLINES:

- Please email expression of interest by **10th January 2018**.
- 200-word Abstract due: **20th January 2018**.
- First draft of research paper due: **31th March 2018**
- Second draft of research paper due: **15 May 2018**
- Final research paper due: **30th June 2018**
- Journal Launch: **October 2018**.

Interested authors are requested to email their expression of interest and abstracts to our facilitator at info@dropsafghanistan.org and DROP Deputy Director at bismellah.drops@gmail.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or require further information. We look forward to working with you on this exciting and innovative project.