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- Partnership announcement**
- Consortium seeks partner**

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**Research interests or Summary of research proposal:**

Taiwan, as well as Latvia and Lithuania, are young democracies in all three countries law plays a more and more important role in the organization of private, social and political life. Complex contemporary social systems elevate the position of the judiciary in contemporary democracies. Antimajoritarian institutional provisions and human rights impose some restrictions on the role of the legislature and executive powers and place the judiciary in a special place in political systems. Judiciary had been playing a special role in the development of democracy in all three countries.

The research hypothesis is that the judiciary in young democracies played a special role which requires self-restraint. This is connected with the judiciary's epistemic authority, which is not restricted to legal but also requires considerable extra-legal knowledge.

The aim of the proposed research is to compare judges' attitudes to and opinions of democracy and rule of law. It will be done through semi-structured interviews with judges on different levels in the system of administration of justice in respective countries.

The questionnaire will include questions about the self-identity of judiciaries in their respective countries (self-reflections about the status) and their knowledge, education, and nomination procedures.

The outcome of the research will be more realistic empirically oriented comparative analyses of the role of judiciaries in young democracies with stress on similarities and differences. It will be a substantive contribution to comparative constitutional law.