This talk explores the mechanism of election manipulation in ostensibly democratic but essentially authoritarian systems called the hybrid regime, using the 2018 parliamentary elections in Bangladesh as an example. The 2018 election has delivered an unprecedented victory to the incumbent Bangladesh Awami League. Elections pose serious dilemmas for the leaders of hybrid regimes. While contested elections bolster their claims of democracy and augment their legitimacy, they can also threaten the status quo. Faced with the challenge, the incumbents tend to hold stage-managed elections. Riaz offers incisive examination of Bangladesh’s political environment, rigorous scrutiny of the roles of state institutions including the law enforcing agencies, and meticulous analysis of election results.

Prof. Dr. Ali Riaz is a Distinguished Professor at the Department of Politics and Government at the Illinois State University. He also holds the Thomas E Eimermann Professorship (2018-2020) and is internationally well recognized expert on violent extremism, Political Islam, South Asian politics and Bangladeshi politics. His book publications in the recent years include ‘Voting in a Hybrid Regime, Explaining the 2018 Bangladeshi Election’ (Palgrave Pivot, 2019), ‘Lived Islam and Islamism in Bangladesh’ (Dhaka: Prothoma, 2017), ‘Bangladesh: A Political History since Independence’ (I B Tauris, 2016), ‘Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Bangladesh’ (Routledge, 2016), ‘Islam and Identity Politics among British-Bangladeshis: A Leap of Faith’ (Manchester University Press, 2013).

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019
Time: 18:45-20:00
Venue: CATS, EG SR 01 (010.00.21)

All are cordially invited!

Prof. Dr. Ali Riaz
Illinois State University

Discussants

Dr. Dieter Reinhardt
Mr. Jai Prasad