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"Who are you to say how we should run our country?" Western scholars, democracy promotion, and politics in Africa

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The **Czech Association for African Studies** invites you to a guest lecture by Prof. Nic Cheeseman.

Despite the third wave of democratization, activists and academics are still fighting for human rights and democracy around the world. The combination of a global democratic recession, along with growing government repression during the COVID-19 pandemic, mean that these struggles are as vital and dangerous today as they ever were. But what should be the position and role of foreign academics who study these processes? It is natural to want to support one's friends and colleagues who are taking on considerable risk to fight for their rights, especially when survey evidence suggests that the vast majority of citizens wish to live under a democratic government. But do academic norms require neutrality in ongoing political processes? Do the demands of decolonization require foreign scholars to remain silent on normative issues? And is there a risk that speaking out will do more harm than good? This talk will address these questions, drawing on Professor Cheeseman's experience of researching elections and democracy in Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, his newspaper columns for Kenya's Daily Nation and South Africa's Mail&Guardian, and the Resistance Bureau, a webinar and discussion space that he has co-curated since 2020.

The **ZOOM** link will be provided upon registration with your full name and affiliation at the address info@africkastudia.cz.