Professor Ronald Inglehart, University of Michigan

Evolutionary Modernization and Cultural Change

Wednesday, May 9, 2012
2:00 – 4:00
The Gallery (URBN 212G), Urban Center
Portland State University

Ronald Inglehart is Professor of Political Science and Research Professor at the Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan. He has recently received an appointment to the Amy and Alan Lowenstein Professorship in Democracy, Democratization and Human Rights at the University of Michigan.

Ronald Inglehart and his colleague Pippa Norris, at Harvard, are winners of the 2011 Johan Skytte Prize, one of the most prestigious in the field, awarded to scholars who have made the most valuable contribution to the field of Political Science. It was awarded to Inglehart and Norris "for innovative ideas about the relevance and roots of political culture in a global context, transcending previous mainstream approaches of research".

Professor Inglehart's ongoing research focuses on cultural change and its consequences. To explore this, he is coordinating a world-wide survey of mass values and attitudes, the World Values Survey. This data base reveals astonishingly strong linkages between the values and beliefs of mass publics and the presence or absence of democratic institutions, supporting the thesis that political culture plays a crucial role in the emergence and survival of democracy. Professor Inglehart is analyzing data from the six waves of the World Values survey (carried out in 1981, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005-2006 and 2011-2012) in almost 100 countries containing 90% of the world's population.