The discussion of social accountability initiatives has increasingly focused on debates over their development impacts. Many conclude that the evidence is mixed. The analytical exercise takes another step, rethinking some of the most influential studies through a new lens: the distinction between tactical and strategic approaches to encouraging citizen voice to contribute to improved public sector performance. While some evaluations focus on bounded, tactical interventions that are based on very optimistic assumptions about the power of information alone to motivate collective action that can influence public sector performance, other studies address multi-pronged strategies that encourage enabling environments for collective action and try to bolster state capacity to actually respond to citizen voice.

Presentation: Social Accountability: What Does the Evidence Say?

**Presenter**
Jonathan Fox  
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**Discussant**
Phil Keefer  
Lead Research Economist in the Development Research Group of the World Bank

**Chair**
Roby Senderowitsch  
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Speaker Bios

Jonathan Fox recently joined the development studies faculty at the School of International Service at American University. He received his PhD from MIT in political science in 1986. He has carried out scholarly and applied research on the relationship between citizen participation, transparency and accountability since 1982, primarily in rural Mexico. His books include Accountability Politics: Power and Voice in Rural Mexico (2007), Mexico’s Right-to-Know Reforms: Civil Society Perspectives, (coeditor, 2007), Decentralization and Rural Development in Mexico: Community Participation in Oaxaca's Municipal Funds Program (coauthor, 1996), The Politics of Food in Mexico: State Power and Social Mobilization (1992), as well as related articles in the Journal of Peasant Studies, Development in Practice, and World Development. He currently serves on the boards of directors of Fundar, a Mexican public interest group and Oxfam-America, and serves on the International Expert Panel of the Independent Reporting Mechanism of the Open Government Partnership. (http://jonathan-fox.org)

Phil Keefer is Lead Research Economist in the Development Research Group of the World Bank. The focus of his work is the determinants of political incentives to pursue economic development. His research, on issues such as the impact of insecure property rights on growth; the effects of political credibility on policy; the sources of political credibility in democracies and autocracies; and the influence of political parties on conflict, political budget cycles, and public sector reform, has appeared in journals ranging from the Quarterly Journal of Economics to the American Political Science Review.

Roby Senderowitsch serves as Program Manager of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA). Previously he was Country Manager of the World Bank in the Dominican Republic. His work in the Bank included a strong focus on political economy analysis, building coalitions for change, anti-corruption, and performance based management of public institutions. Before joining the Bank, Roby worked with several NGOs in Argentina and Cuba, where he served as the Field Representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He has been a lecturer in Human Resource management in nonprofit organizations, as well as director of educational programs community development and human resource management in the private sector. Roby is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Buenos Aires and a series of postgraduate courses at Harvard and Stanford University.