**Defining democracy: voting procedures in decision-making, elections and governance.** Peter Emerson. *Springer*. 197 pp hb 23 cm +3-642-20903-1. Emerson, director of the de Borda institute, is well known as a campaigner for alternatives to conventional democracy. He made his own contribution to the Good Friday agreement and has helped transitional processes in many countries throughout the world. The first edition of this book was published in 2002 and it has been amended and updated to take into account changes in international politics since then. Basically it is a handbook on how to organise democracy in different ways. Emerson describes the different kinds of electoral and governmental systems, explains how each works in practice and weighs the pros and cons of each. The result is a thought-provoking guide to what democracy actually means and how best it can be achieved.