In this paper, we examine the practice of social accountability in Liberia from the perspective of both government and civil society. Peruzzotti and Smulovitz (2006) define "social accountability" as means of civic control of political authorities in emergent democracies through mobilization, monitoring and oversight, and symbolic rather than formal or negative sanctions. Drawing on interviews and fieldwork conducted in Monrovia, Liberia in October 2011, we compare the Liberian Governance Commission’s approach to social accountability with that of diverse civic associations and social movements. Our goal is to better understand how civic associations and social movements have influenced the development of democratic governance in Liberia since it emerged from civil war in 2003. The paper contributes to a broader debate in the literature on the role of civil society in democratic consolidation.

**Tuesday, February 21st**
**12:30 PM - 1:30PM**
**2339 Faculty/Administration Building**
**Free and Open to the Public**

The Liberian women’s movement takes action to promote a peaceful election. Monrovia, October 6, 2011. Photo: K. Krawczyk.

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