



Call for Papers

Annual Research Workshop 2018

“Democratic participation: theoretical and empirical perspectives”

September 13-14, 2018

University of Zurich, Switzerland

Topic of the Workshop

Citizen participation is broadly understood as a constitutive element of democracy. Without people discussing public affairs and voting, representative democracies are hollowed out and decay. While some political actors and commentators lament the low political turnout in ordinary elections and the political disengagement of various groups of citizens (young people, minorities, lower classes), other ones experiment new ways to try and revive the civic flame. Innovative ideas to expand the narrow institutional frame of purely representative democracy and include more forms of political participation – such as participatory budgeting, mini-publics, political consumerism, workplace democracy, compulsory and facultative referendums, liquid democracy, town meetings, or judicial juries – have gained growing support both in academic and public discourse.

These contemporary debates on political participation raise numerous questions: What can be considered “political participation”? How should researchers approach democratic participation, both theoretically and empirically? What forms of participation are necessary for democratic systems? What is the relationship between participation and democratic decision-making? How can desirable forms of participation be promoted? Where are the limits to democratic participation? Who is excluded from political participation? The workshop aims at exploring these issues from various theoretical and empirical perspectives, both in democratic and nondemocratic contexts.

The Annual Research Workshop “Democratic participation: theoretical and empirical perspectives” provides a space for junior researchers to present and discuss their research on these and related questions from different theoretical and empirical perspectives.

Workshop Outline

Thursday, 13th September

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| 09:00-09:30 | Arrival, Registration, Coffee |
| 09:30-10:00 | Opening: Welcoming and presentation of DemocracyNet |
| 10:15-12:15 | Panel I: Participants' presentations |
| 13:30-15:30 | Panel II: Participants' presentations |
| 15:45-17:45 | Panel III: Participants' presentations |
| 19:00 | Workshop dinner |

Friday, 14th September

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| 09:30-10:30 | Panel IV: Participants' presentations |
| 10:45-11:45 | Panel V: Participants' presentations |
| 13:30-16:00 | Working Session: DemocracyNet project mapping |
| 16:15-17:00 | Evaluation and wrap-up |
| 17:00 | End of the meeting, departure |



General Information

The research workshop is part of the doctoral program Democracy Studies (DPDS) at the University of Zurich and is organized by DemocracyNet. The workshop is open for PhD candidates and Postdocs working in this field. Doctoral students will be awarded 1 ECTS for successful participation, and 2 ECTS for participation and presentation.

The objective of this research workshop is twofold. First, we aim at fostering interdisciplinary academic discussions between DPDS students, members of the DemocracyNet association, and other junior researchers interested in the study of democratic participation. Each participant to the workshop will have the opportunity to present a research project or a working paper, and receive feedback from other junior or senior scholars on their current research. Second, we aim at fostering collaboration and teamwork among junior researchers by exchanging ideas, strengthening a network of researchers in the field, and sharing knowledge to initiate new research and knowledge transfer projects.

Guidelines for participation

We encourage applications from participants from a broad range of disciplines and perspectives interested in the democracy studies in general and political participation in particular. Applications by doctoral students from within the DPDS are particularly welcome, but the workshop is open to all interested persons, including postdoctoral researchers. Each participant is invited to present her/his research project or a current research paper, which they will share with all the other participants ahead of the workshop; we particularly encourage the presentation of PhD projects.

The afternoon of the second day of the workshop will encourage interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary dialogues oriented towards the development and organization of research projects and transfer events. The working sessions and activities will support and encourage the establishment of useful collaborative networks.

Participants are expected to attend the whole workshop.

Application

Please specify what you would like to present during the workshop sessions and send a short description (300-400 words abstract) of your research project and your personal details to Henri-Pierre Mottironi (Henri-Pierre.Mottironi@unil.ch) by the 15th of June 2018. We will inform you that we have received your proposals. If you do not receive a reply from us in a week's time, you should assume we did not (yet) receive your proposal.

Costs and Grants

The workshop is free of charge. Please contact us as soon as possible if you require any grants for travel or accommodation costs.

Further Information

DemocracyNet is a non-partisan and non-profit association of researchers in democracy studies that was founded in 2011. For more information about DemocracyNet, its members and other project activities, please visit <http://www.democracynet.eu/>.