



Research workshop Political Representation in Democratic Systems

September 9-10, 2019
University of Zurich, Switzerland

Program

Topic of the workshop

Democracy studies have recently undergone a major change in the way of conceiving representation. Long understood as one political practice among others, representation has been reconceptualized in this new, “constructivist” turn as an inescapable feature of (democratic) politics and lawmaking processes. On the one hand, it is necessary to the emergence and evolution of interests and preferences within the population and to the mobilization of constituencies in political decision-making processes. On the other hand, it is a practice that is not reserved to elected politicians, but one performed by a much wider range of non-elected actors. This paradigm shift has raised a variety of new theoretical and empirical questions within democracy studies, such as:

- How should “representation” and “representing” be defined? How to conceptualize it from a philosophical or legal perspective? How can we operationalize and measure it with empirical approaches?
- What does the framing of certain practices as practices of representation add to existing debates? Are political parties, elected politicians, and mini-publics all “representatives” in the same sense, or are there important distinctions? What is the relationship between “representative democracy” and representation?
- Who are the actors representing? Who are the actors represented? How can they be identified?
- What influences the success or failure of practices of representation, e.g., at mobilizing (new) constituencies, at making issues and interests salient, at framing debates? What legal and institutional mechanisms enable the emergence or sanction of democratic representative actors? How do practices of representation differ in democratic and in non-democratic contexts?
- Against what normative criteria should we evaluate instances of representation and representative actors? How should we understand demands for congruence or responsiveness on the part of citizens in relation to good representation? And what institutional arrangements can help realizing democratic representation?

These and other questions will be at the center of the Research Workshop “Political Representation in Democratic Systems.” This workshop aims at bringing together researchers from different disciplines (including, but not limited to, political science and political theory, law, philosophy, history, and sociology) in academic discussions about issues related to political representation.

Venue

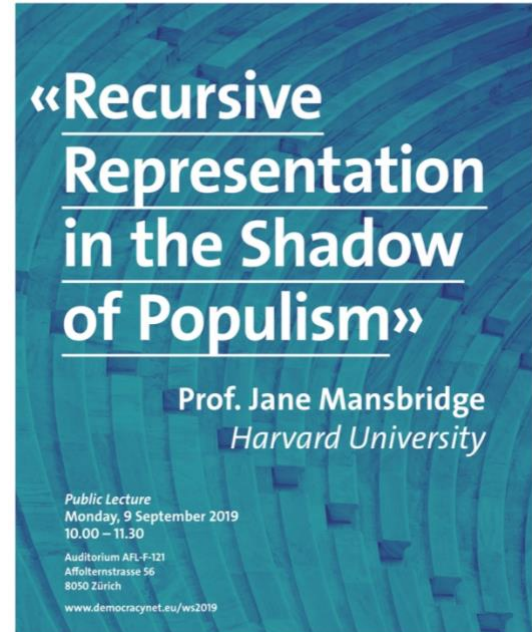
University of Zurich, Institute of Political Science
[Affolternstrasse 56](#)
8050 Zürich (Oerlikon)



Program

Monday, September 9, 2019

- 09:30-10:00 *Arrival, registration, coffee and croissants*
Main hall of the AFL building (Olivenhalle)
- 10:00-11:30 **Public lecture: “Recursive Representation in the Shadow of Populism”**
By Jane Mansbridge, Harvard University
Opening words by Francis Cheneval, University of Zurich
Auditorium AFL-F-121
- 11:30-12:30 *Lunch, ABB/Cityport Cafeteria*
- 12:30-13:30 Q&A session with Jane Mansbridge for registered workshop participants
Room AFL-E-015
- 13:45-14:00 Introduction to the workshop and presentation of DemocracyNet
By Alice el-Wakil, University of Zurich
Room AFL-E-015
- 14:00-17:00 **Panel I: Conceptualizing Representation**
Chair: Arno Stirnimann
Discussants: Sara Amighetti & Jennifer Page, University of Zurich
- Dimitri Courant**, University of Lausanne and Paris 8
“‘We have humility’. Perceived Legitimacy and Representative Claims in the Irish Citizens’ Assembly”
- Edana Beauvais**, McGill University (co-authored with Mark Warren and Sule Yaylaci)
“When, Where, and Why Might Elected Representatives Adopt Democratic Innovations?”
- 15:20-15:40 Break*
- Olivier Ruchet**, University of Zurich
“Contesting Representation: Radical Democracy, Participation, and the Polytonality of Critique”
- Hans Asenbaum**, University of Westminster
“Embodied Representation and Radical Democratic Disidentification”
- 19:00 *Dinner for registered workshop participants*
Restaurant [Metzgerhalle](#), Schaffhauserstrasse 354, Zürich





Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Room [AFL-E-015](#)

09:30-12:00 **Panel II: Quality of Representation**

Chair: Chiara Valsangiacomo

Discussant: Tarik Abou-Chadi, University of Zurich

Konstantin Käppner, University of Geneva (co-authored with Max Joosten, Jérémie Poltier and Jonas Pontusson)

“Voter Preferences and Redistributive Outcomes: Exploring Determinants of Unequal Representation”

Lea Portmann, University of Lucerne

“Moderating Effects of Stereotyping on Voter Discrimination Towards Immigrant-Origin Candidates”

10:50-11:10 Break

Alice el-Wakil, University of Zurich

“Bottom-up Popular Vote Processes and Non-Elected Representatives”

12:00-13:00 *Lunch, IPZ Cafeteria in AFL building*

13:00-16:30 **Panel III: Representation and Innovation**

Chair: Alice el-Wakil

Discussant: Marco Steenbergen (University of Zurich)

Dennis Bastian Rudolf, University of Rostock

“The Puzzle of Representation in the Unfolding of the Digital”

Antoine Gaboriau, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

“Digital Participatory Platforms for a New Chapter of the History of Representation?”

14:20-14:40 Break

Gergana Dimova, University of Winchester

“Is the Representative Turn Dead? Comparing the Representative Turn with 24 other “Turns” in Democratic Theory”

15:30-16:30 DemocracyNet collaborative working session

16:30-17:00 Wrap-up, evaluation, and closing words

17:00 End of workshop, departure

Registered participants

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About the organizers

This workshop is organized by members of DemocracyNet (Alice el-Wakil, Arno Stirnimann and Chiara Valsangiacomo). DemocracyNet is an international, non-partisan and non-profit association of researchers in democracy studies. Since its creation in 2011, DemocracyNet offers researchers from various disciplines a structure that facilitates collaborations for research projects and projects fostering dialogue between academia and the wider public. For more information about DemocracyNet, its academic and transfer activities, its members, and how to become a member, please visit www.DemocracyNet.eu.

This workshop is organized in cooperation with and thanks to the generous support of the Doctoral Program “Democracy Studies” (DPDS) of the University of Zurich. To learn more about the program, please visit <https://www.ipz.uzh.ch/en/studium/phd/democracy-studies-program/doctoral-program.html>.

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