



WORKSHOP

## Revisiting the challenges of democratic inclusion in theory & practice

November 16-18, 2020 | University of Zurich, Switzerland  
Co-hosted by the [Doctoral Program Democracy Studies](#) and [DemocracyNet](#)

**Abstract Submission Deadline:** September 13, 2020

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Contemporary societies in today's globalized world are shaped by ongoing disputes about how to draw boundaries of membership and who should have a claim to be included in a democratic polity. Especially cities, where now more than half of the world's population lives, are developing new forms of inclusive governance and designing novel ways for political decision-making. In this light, it is vital to revisit and reflect about the challenges as well as opportunities of democratic inclusion in a comprehensive and holistic way. Therefore, the Doctoral Program Democracy Studies at the University of Zurich invites PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and advanced MA students for its workshop, which explores new perspectives of democratic inclusion not only in theory, but also in practice.

This workshop seeks to bring together renowned academic experts and practitioners from the field of democratic inclusion, with the intention to develop new critical understandings of the role of research in fostering democracy and re-addressing inclusion in the face of today's challenges. In particular, the topics of concern are structured and formulated in relation to examining the context, the subject and the means of democratic inclusion as these provide a useful framework of examining the multi-faceted issues that underpin the concept of democratic inclusion. We welcome contributions providing conceptual, methodological and/or empirical work on the following topics and questions:

- **Revisiting the boundaries of inclusion:** Going beyond the conventional boundaries of democratic inclusion, it is vital to question the traditional while reflecting about new expanded conceptions of boundaries. Who has a voice in a political system and access to resources? What are the linkages between political inclusion, diversity, migration and integration? What are the implications of citizenship that goes beyond the nation-state? To what extent should the view of the youth or even the future generation be included when a political community endeavors to make a just decision?
- **Inclusive political governance:** In this era of continuous urbanization that intersects with other complex phenomena of modernization and globalization, how can political inclusion be addressed in difficult and challenging contexts? How do we build inclusive societies in which everyone — regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability — can live and thrive? What roles can the global cities take on as the frontlines of governance experimentation to explore and test solutions regarding democratic inclusion?
- **New frontiers of democratic innovations:** Integrating the study of democracy to a current and salient topic of the rise of technology, it is interesting to examine the implications of digital technology on democratic innovations as a way of exploring a new frontier of democratic inclusion. How can democratic innovations address challenges of inclusion in increasingly pluralized and globally interconnected societies? To what extent are digital technologies able to enhance the democratic capacities of political systems? What kind of participatory and innovative approaches can smart cities undertake to support the creation of inclusive cities?



These and other questions will be focal points of interest for this workshop which aims at bringing together researchers from different disciplines (including, but not limited to, political science and political theory, law, philosophy, urban studies, and sociology) to engage in academic discussions about issues related to political inclusion. The aim of the workshop is to encourage junior researchers to present their (working) papers to take the opportunity to gain feedback from all participants as well as from advanced scholars. Furthermore, the workshop will also include sessions with presentations by practitioners from the field as well as a short field trip and a public round table to take the discussion further. The last day of the workshop is dedicated to synthesizing the sharing and discussion undertaken during the workshop and more importantly, to reflect on how to bridge between research and practice.

#### Confirmed speakers

- [Prof. Stefanie Tamara Kurt](#), School for Social Work HES-SO Valais-Wallis, project manager at [NCCR on the move](#)
- [Dr. Svenja Ahlhaus](#), Research Associate, [University of Hamburg, Department of Political Science](#)
- Dr. Ming Zhuang, Associate Researcher, Chengdu Academy of Social Sciences, Co-Founder of NGO 'Social Equity and Participation Center'

#### Application

Junior researchers interested in presenting their work are requested to submit an abstract of **max. 300 words** to Su Yun Woo ([suyun.woo@uzh.ch](mailto:suyun.woo@uzh.ch)), Palmo Brunner ([brunner@ipz.uzh.ch](mailto:brunner@ipz.uzh.ch)), or Masakazu Ogami ([masakazu.ogami@uzh.ch](mailto:masakazu.ogami@uzh.ch)) by **September 13, 2020**. Submissions may include working papers or research project outlines. Selected participants will be notified by September 28. The workshop will also be open to non-speaker participants at a later point in time. More information on how to register as such will be made available here: <https://democracynet.eu>

#### Conditions of participation

Accepted participants will be required to send their paper by November 5, 2020. Graduate students presenting or attending the workshop can be granted 1 ECTS for their participation; conditions include attendance at the entire workshop, active participation as well as either a presentation or the provision of written feedback to two papers.

The workshop is free of charge. Travel and accommodation are at the expense of participants. For outstanding international participants, funding to cover some travel and accommodation expenses is available. Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to apply for such a travel and accommodation grant ([brunner@ipz.uzh.ch](mailto:brunner@ipz.uzh.ch)).

Funding by the [Stiftung Mercator Schweiz](#) is gratefully acknowledged.