



REPORT

on the international, interdisciplinary workshop

LIQUID DEMOCRACY

December 15-16, 2022

University of Zurich

SHORT DESCRIPTION

The workshop focused on liquid democracy, a democratic innovation that has gained increasing visibility over the past five years. It brought together a very diverse and interdisciplinary community of scholars to enable exchange among them, to identify the state of the art in the field, and to start a productive dialogue that can foster our understanding of liquid democracy, its concrete potentials and limitations, from complementary perspectives. The workshop addressed questions as diverse as:

- What is liquid democracy, what kind of concept is it and how can we best define it? Is there only one definition of liquid democracy, or can there be different conceptualizations?
- What is the logical domain of application of liquid democracy (private vs political, party vs government)?
- Which liquid democracy models are best suited to derive useful and realistic insights? Which are the mathematical challenges they pose?
- How can we best design software that helps us implement this idea? What are the IT challenges posed by this idea?
- How can liquid democracy be implemented within existing systems? What are the social, political, legal consequences of introducing this idea? How does liquid democracy impact participation?
- Why should we implement liquid democracy, if at all? Is it a legitimate form of decision-making? Which normative problems does it help solving?



PARTICIPANTS

Alessandro Checco (University of Rome La Sapienza)

Alois Paulin (University of Applied Sciences Ludwigsburg)

Andrei Constantinescu (ETH Zurich)

Anson Kahng (University of Rochester)

Bryan Alexander Ford (EPFL)

Carlo Brancati (Digital entrepreneur and independent consultant)

Catarina Pereira (University of Zurich)

Chiara Valsangiacomo (University of Zurich)

Christian Damsgaard Kristensen (Legal Consultant of the Danish Ministry of Defence)

Christina Isabel Zuber (University of Konstanz)

Cristina Sarasua (University of Zurich)

Davide Grossi (University of Groningen)

Dimitrios Karoukis (CEO of Deliberative Technologies)

Dylan Johnson (University of Hamburg)

Ehud Shapiro (Weizmann Institute of Science)

Fynn Bachmann (University of Zurich)

Marco Deseriis (Scuola Normale Superiore)

Giovanni Davide Zenga (Polytechnic University of Milan)

Gregory Butterworth (Cardiff University)

Henrieta Hajnali (University of Vienna)

Hugo Gilbert (Paris Dauphine University)

Jobst Heitzig (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research)

Julia Wagner (ETH Zurich)

Karsten Donnay (University of Zurich)

Lucien Heitz (University of Zurich)

Manon Revel (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Miklovana Tuci (University of Zurich)

Nimrod Talmon (Ben-Gurion University)

Patryk Morawski (ETH Zurich)

Rachael Colley (University of Toulouse)

Robin Fritsch (ETH Zurich)

Sukmo Kim (University College London)

Théo Delemazure (Paris Dauphine University)

Victoria Herbig (ETH Zurich)

Yann Vonlanthen (ETH Zurich)

Yepeng Ding (ETH Zurich)



FINAL PROGRAM

<u>DAY 1: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022</u>	
Institute of Political Science, Affolternstrasse 56, 8050, Zurich Room AFL-F-121 (Welcome session, panel and roundtable) Room AFL-F-172/73 (Poster session)	
<i>11.00 – 11.30</i>	<i>Arrival of experts and participants</i>
<i>11.30-12.00</i>	<i>Welcome and introduction to the workshop</i>
Poster presentations	
<i>12.00-13.30</i>	<p><i>Carlo Brancati “LiquidFeedback, Italian Best (and Worst) Practices”</i></p> <p><i>Hugo Gilbert, Rachael Colley and Théo Delemazure “Liquid Democracy - how critical are you in your network?”</i></p> <p><i>Jobst Heitzig “Non-majoritarian consensus-oriented liquid democracy? Combining probabilistic voting rules and flexible delegation systems in the vodle.it app”</i></p> <p><i>Sukmo Kim “Constitutive Referendums as Exceptional Democratic Act?: Constituent Power, Referendums and the Case of Fusion”</i></p> <p><i>Christian D. Kristensen “Democracy, Decentralization, and Political Evolution: How Technology Enables the Liberal Democracy”</i></p>
<i>13.30-14.00</i>	<i>Coffee break (Cityport Mensa)</i>
<i>14.00-14.10</i>	<i>Presentation of DemocracyNet & sponsors</i>
Panel I: Implementations of Liquid Democracy Chair: Cristina Sarasua	
<i>14.10-14.50</i>	<i>Ehud Shapiro “Grassroots vs. Constitutional Liquid Democracy”</i>
<i>14.50-15.00</i>	<i>Break</i>
<i>15.00-15.40</i>	<i>Alois Paulin “Self Governance? Smart Anarchy? Beyond Bureaucracy? How Liquid Democracy could radically transform public governance ”</i>
<i>15.40-16.20</i>	<i>Dimitrios Karoukis “Deliberative democracy with dilutive voting power sharing”</i>
<i>16.20-16.30</i>	<i>Wrap up and end of workshop’s day 1</i>
<i>16.30-18.00</i>	<i>Break (hotel check-in for participants)</i>
Public roundtable “Liquid Democracy”	



18.00-18.45	<i>Moderated Roundtable with Karsten Donnay, Bryan Alexander Ford, Davide Grossi and Christina Isabel Zuber</i>
18.45-19.30	<i>Q&A with the public</i>
19.30 - 22.00	<i>Aperò riche with all participants and speakers</i>
22.00	<i>End of day 1</i>

<u>DAY 2: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022</u>	
Department of Informatics, Binzmuehlestrasse 14, 8050 Zurich Room BIN-0-K12/13	
9.00-9.10	<i>Welcome and introduction to day 2</i>
Panel II: Political Philosophy and Economy of Liquid Democracy Chair: Manon Revel	
9.10-9.50	<i>Chiara Valsangiacomo “Six Democratic Arguments in Favor of Liquid Assemblies”</i>
9.50-10.30	<i>Alessandro Checco “Online communities, misinformation, and post-truth - a computational social science perspective”</i>
10.30-10.45	<i>Break</i>
10.45-11.25	<i>Julia Wagner “Credence Policies and Experts in Democracy” *</i>
11.25-12.05	<i>Dylan Johnson “Electoral Market Structure under Liquid Democracy”</i>
12.05-14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Panel III: Mathematics of Liquid Democracy Chair: Chiara Valsangiacomo	
14.00-14.40	<i>Nimrod Talmon “Fine-grained liquid democracy”</i>
14.40 -15.20	<i>Gregory Butterworth “Next Generation Liquid Democracy: A.I. Automatic Delegation and Voting Options will Guarantee the Optimisation of Democratic Representative Legitimacy”</i>
15.20-15.35	<i>Break</i>
15.35-16.15	<i>Manon Revel “Liquid Democracy in Practice”</i>
16.15-16.55	<i>Théo Delemazure “Liquid Democracy with Ranked Delegations ”</i>
16.55-17.30	Wrap-up of workshop’s day 2 and final discussion
From 17.30	End of day 2 and departure of experts and participants

PICTURES



Day 1 – Poster Session (photo by Chiara Valsangiacomo)



Day 1 – Panel I with Alois Paulin (photo by Chiara Valsangiacomo)

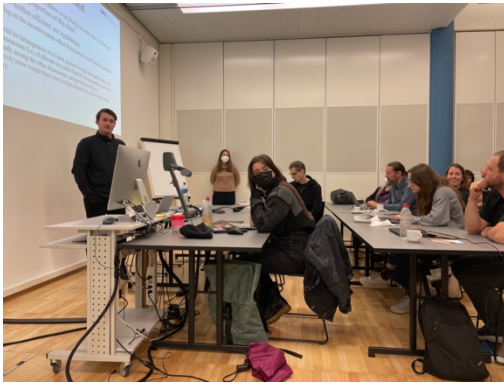


Day 1 – Panel I (photo by Alois Paulin)



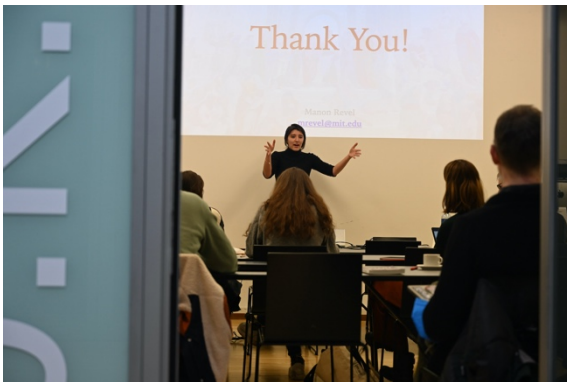
Day 1 – Public roundtable (photo by Chiara

Valsangiacomo)



Day 2 – Panel II with Dylan Johnson (photo by Chiara

Valsangiacomo)



Day 2 – Panel III with Manon Revel (photo by Alois

Paulin)



(photo by Alois Paulin)



PROJECT LEADERS

- Chiara Valsangiacomo, Doctoral researcher, University of Zurich, Department of Political Science
- Cristina Sarasua, Postdoc researcher, University of Zurich, Department of Informatics
- Lucien Heitz, Doctoral researcher, University of Zurich, Department of Informatics
- Manon Revel, Doctoral researcher, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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