

## Recent Theories of Democracy: Innovative Concepts and Applications in the 21st Century

Seminar 53 117 – Lektürekurs

Wednesdays, 10-12 am; UNI 3b, 001; Institut für Sozialwissenschaften

### Moodle password: [democracy117](#)

#### Abstract:

Contemporary democratic theory has been developing mostly as a normative discipline. In recent years, several concepts of democracy have been proposed in order to account for transformations in the political landscape. From Polyarchy (Dahl) to post-democracy (Crouch), several have been the attempts to describe current democracy by indicating how it ought to (better) work. Democracy has been described as radical (Dewey), participatory (Pateman), discursive (Habermas), agonistic (Laclau and Mouffe), procedural (Rawls), deliberative (Dryzek), experimental (Sable), monitory (Keane), reflective (Goodin), and even as counter-democracy (Rosanvallon), just to mention some. While those new conceptualizations seem to indicate a common aim of overcoming elitist (Schumpeter) and minimalist (Przeworski) notions of democracy, they also display a more general critique of liberal, representative democracy. Do such critique advance desirable values and feasible institutional designs able to improve "real existing democracies" (Schmitter)? What is the potential of those theories to provide an analytical framework through which democracies can be evaluated and the indicators to measure democratic quality improved? This seminar seeks to address these questions by assessing the aforementioned concepts against an empirical backdrop provided by case studies and other resources of data on different countries. Although the seminar focuses on normative perspectives that inform current debates on democratic theory, it has a practical intent of assessing the empirical worth of such approaches. Such practical intent will be reflected in the seminar's working methodology, which will combine presentations of texts with short researches on cases and data.

#### Required readings

- Crouch, Colin (2004): *Post-Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter 1 and Conclusion
- Dorf, Michael and Sabel, Charles (1998): "The Constitution of Democratic Experimentalism". *Columbia Law Review*: 98(2): 267-473. Parts I, III, IVa and IVb

- Fung, Archon and Wright, Eric Olin (2003): "Thinking about Empowered Participatory Governance". In: Fung and Wright (eds.): *Deepening Democracy*. London/New York: Verso.
- Goodin, Robert E. (2010): *Reflective Democracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Habermas, Jürgen (2000): "Three Normative Models of Democracy". In: *The Inclusion of the Other. Studies in Political Theory*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.
- Hardt, Michael and Negri, Toni (2012): *Declaration*. New York: Argo Navis. Selections from Chapters 1-3
- Keane, John (2011): "Monitory democracy". In: Alonso, Keane and Merkel (eds): *The Future of Representative Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 212-235
- Merkel, Wolfgang (2013): *Crisis of Democracy?* Introduction. Forthcoming. (Manuscript)
- Przeworski, Adam (2010): *Democracy and the Limits of Self-Government*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2
- Rosanvallon, Pierre (2008): *Counter-Democracy. Politics in an Age of Distrust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Conclusion
- Wolin, Sheldon (1996): "Fugitive Democracy". In: Seyla Benhabib (ed.): *Democracy and Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press

**Program:**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>17.04.</b>	<b>Introduction/ Readings and Presentations Assignments</b>
		<i>Part I: Conceptualizing Democracy</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>24.04.</b>	<b>Moving beyond Minimalist's Approaches</b> <b>Reading:</b> ➤ Przeworski, Adam (2010): <i>Democracy and the Limits of Self-Government</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2
<b>3</b>	<b>08.05.</b>	<b>Three Normative Models of Democracy</b> <b>Reading:</b> ➤ Habermas, Jürgen (2000): "Three Normative Models of Democracy". In: <i>The Inclusion of the Other. Studies in Political Theory</i> . Cambridge: The MIT Press.
<b>4</b>	<b>15.05.</b>	<b>Representative Democracy Challenged: Are Defective Democracies the Future?</b> <b>Reading:</b> ➤ Merkel, Wolfgang (2013): <i>Crisis of Democracy?</i> Introduction. Forthcoming. (Manuscript)
<b>5</b>	<b>22.05.</b>	<b>The Post-Democracy Debate</b> <b>Reading:</b> ➤ Crouch, Colin (2004): <i>Post-Democracy</i> . Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter 1 and Conclusion
		<i>Part II: Experimenting with Democracy</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>29.05.</b>	<b>Reflective Democracy</b> <b>Reading:</b> ➤ Goodin, Robert E. (2010): <i>Reflective Democracy</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.
<b>7</b>	<b>05.06.</b>	<b>Deep Democracy and Empowered Participatory Governance</b> <b>Reading:</b> ➤ Fung, Archon and Wright, Eric Olin (2003): "Thinking about Empowered Participatory Governance". In: Fung and Wright (eds.): <i>Deepening Democracy</i> . London/New York: Verso.
<b>8</b>	<b>12.06.</b>	<b>Experimentalist Governance</b> <b>Reading:</b> ➤ Dorf, Michael and Sabel, Charles (1998): "The Constitution of Democratic Experimentalism". <i>Columbia Law Review</i> : 98(2): 267-473. Parts I, III, IVa and IVb

9	19.06.	<p><b>Monitory Democracy</b></p> <p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Keane, John (2011): "Monitory democracy". In: Alonso, Keane and Merkel (eds): <i>The Future of Representative Democracy</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 212-235</li> </ul>
10	26.06.	<p><b>Fugitive Democracy</b></p> <p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wolin, Sheldon (1996): "Fugitive Democracy". In: Seyla Benhabib (ed.): <i>Democracy and Difference</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press</li> </ul>
11	03.07.	<p><b>Counter-Democracy</b></p> <p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rosanvallon, Pierre (2008): <i>Counter-Democracy. Politics in an Age of Distrust</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Conclusion</li> </ul>
12	10.07.	<p><b>Democracy of the Commoner</b></p> <p><b>Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hardt, Michael and Negri, Toni (2012): <i>Declaration</i>. New York: Argo Navis. Selections from Chapters 1-3</li> </ul>