



Demarcating the Demos

Justitia Amplificata Postdoctoral Conference
12th-13th July 2018
Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften

In politically turbulent times, democratic institutions that long seemed undisputed and to which we have grown accustomed, have increasingly come under attack. In order to explore what political theory can contribute to addressing this predicament, we take a step back and re-think the very foundations of democracy. What constitutes a democratic people and who is authorised to speak in its name? How should we conceive of citizens' relations to one another, to their representatives, and to outsiders? What are the nature, conditions and the scope of legitimate democratic institutions and decision-making? In asking these, and related, questions, our conference aims to bring into conversation different ways of critically interrogating the very foundations of democratic practices.

Schedule

Thursday, 12th July 2018

14.00 *Registration*

14.20 Welcome by Rainer Forst

14.30-17.00 **Panel 1 - Demarcating Democratic Foundations: Elites, Citizens and Popular Rule** (Chair: Dimitrios Efthymiou)

Brexit, the election of Donald Trump, and a string of authoritarian election results, have led many to question the value of 'democracy' itself. However, an alternative strain of thought has argued that the problem lies not with 'democracy', but with a particular conception of it: liberal representative democracy. This strain of thought has tried to recapture the meaning of democracy as popular rule and theorised ways in which this ideal can be practically realised. This panel will contribute to this growing field of study, by discussing a number of questions, including: How can the power of economic and social elites over the democratic process be checked? What role do rights play in popular democracy? What constitutional mechanisms can give ordinary citizens an effective role in democratic decision-making?

Guy Aitchison (UCD): Popular Resistance and the Idea of Rights

Bruno Leipold (Justitia Amplificata): Binding Instructions: Democratic Accountability and the Imperative Mandate

Melissa Schwartzberg (NYU): Voters and Jurors

17.00-18.00 *Drinks Reception*

From 18.30 *BBQ at FKH (Bad Homburg)*



Friday, 13th July 2018

9.30-10.30 *Breakfast*

10.30-13.00 **Panel 2 - Demarcating Democratic Boundaries: People, Place and Territory**
(Chair: Nate Adams)

While territoriality is among the constitutive (and, hence, for long unquestioned) features of modern statehood, it is increasingly subject to contestation both by political activists and theorists: What are the criteria according to which legitimate jurisdiction can be established and borders be drawn? How should the boundaries of membership and democratic enfranchisement be delimited? And what is the normative significance of territorial presence in the context of immigrant rights? The panel brings together three papers that take the significance of "place" and "space" seriously in thinking about a variety of issues at the intersection of political authority, membership and territory.

Jakob Huber (Justitia Amplificata): Proximity as a Membership Principle

Anna Jurkevics (UBC): Land Grabbing and the Contradictions of Territorial Sovereignty

Anna Stilz (Princeton): Does a Country Belong to its People?

13.00- 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30-17.00 **Panel 3 – Demarcating Democratic Inclusion: Citizenship, Participation and Acceptance** (Chair: Amy Hondo)

Participation is one of the defining principles of democracy. Democracies, however, are struggling to entrench enthusiasm for democratic participation and to secure the inclusion of all-affected in democratic decision-making. Such conditions demand attention to a number of questions: What are the necessary conditions for democratic inclusion and what normative consequences do non-participation and exclusion have? How do processes of marginalization and minoritization undermine the right to participate in democracies? What are the constitutive rights and responsibilities associated with healthy democratic institutions, particularly the public sphere? The panel brings together three papers that critically examine democratic inclusion by looking at related issues of citizenship, participation, and acceptance.

Afsoun Afsahi (Justitia Amplificata): What's wrong with the Public Sphere? Willingness, participation, and the all-affected principle

Emily Beausoleil (Massey): Right to Speak, Responsibility to Listen: Centring Listening in and for Democratic Politics

Melissa Williams (Toronto): The Shape-Shifting Citizen: Democratic Agency in Complex Systems

17.00 Concluding Remarks by organisers

17.30 *Drink Reception at FKH*