



# Democratic Innovations: Meeting Great Expectations?

*This section is endorsed by the Standing  
Group on Democratic Innovations.*

---

**SECTION CHAIRS**

Nicole Curato, University of Canberra

Sofie Marien, KU Leuven

Democratic innovations are at a crossroads. For some, the time has come for these ‘citizen-centric’ initiatives to be scaled up and empowered to influence binding decisions.

These innovations have established a track record in deepening democratic engagement, whether it is in the context of planning in local communities or identifying prospects for global climate change policies.

For others, however, democratic innovations have stopped being democratic and innovative. Instead of delivering on their promise of generating legitimate outcomes, policymakers and corporate interests have co-opted these democratic forums. The much cited ‘crisis of democracy’ also places democratic innovations on the spot. Why is it that the age of democratic innovations in political theory has also been the age of bigotry, fake news, and populism in political practice?

This section is designed to get to the heart of these issues. It seeks to generate a conversation between advocates, sceptics, and observers of democratic innovations, as well as scholars that envision their future.

# Democratic Innovations: Meeting Great Expectations

## Section at a Glance

Time	23 August Thursday	24 August Friday	25 August Saturday
09:00 – 10:40	Inequality and Direct Democracy	Democratic Innovation Beyond Political Decision-Making	From Democratic Innovations to Democratic Institutions? The Challenges of Institutionalising New Forms of Citizens' Participation
	Participatory and deliberative practices, and their theoretical and methodological implications	The micropolitics of deliberation and its macropolitical consequences in deliberative systems	
11:00 – 12:40	Democratic Innovation within Political Parties	Direct Democracy: Opinion Formation, Participation, and Effects on Citizens and Societal Outcomes	Deliberative Democracy and Populism: A Mismatch?
	Referendums: beyond the direct/indirect dichotomy		
14:00 – 15:40		Expectations towards citizens in democratic innovations – good, bad or just different?	Frontiers of Democratic Innovations
15:50 – 17:30	Democratic Innovations in Environmental Politics		
	Usage and impact of e-petitions		
16:00 – 17:40			Procedural Fairness, Voice and Democratic Legitimacy
17:40 – 19:00		Facilitating Democratic Innovations through and within Social Movements	
		Mini-Publics within Deliberative Democracy	

## August 23 Thursday

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Inequality and Direct Democracy</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:00-10:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Lars Paulus (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) &amp; Anna Krämling (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)</b>
Paper 1	A blessing or a curse? Recall referendum and local welfare in the Andean countries, Yanina Welp (University of Zurich)
Paper 2	Engaging the young? The Citizens' Initiative in Finland, Henrik Serup Christensen (Åbo Akademi)
Paper 3	The Effects of Direct Democratic Procedures on Socio-Economic Inequality in Europe, Lars Paulus (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) & Anna Krämling (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)
Paper 4	The Political Psychology of Brexit: Legitimacy, Trust and the 'People's Will' in Political Decision-Making, Dion Curry (Swansea University)
Paper 5	The use of referendums in Latin America: good or bad intentions?, Saskia Ruth (University of Zurich)
Discussant	Brigitte Geißel (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Participatory and deliberative practices, and their theoretical and methodological implications</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:00 – 10:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 2 Room: 205</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Marina Lindell (Åbo Akademi) &amp; Kim Strandberg (Åbo Akademi)</b>
Paper 1	Deliberation in Challenging Contexts. A Systemic Analysis of The Konpondu Initiative, Oier Imaz (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Paper 2	From raw to considered opinions on municipal mergers – the role of deliberation on contested local issues, Kim Strandberg (Åbo Akademi) & Janne Berg (Åbo Akademi)
Paper 3	Participatory budgeting in France: opening local budgets or lipservice? , Gil Pradeau (University of Westminster)
Paper 4	Power in Deliberative Participation at High Stakes: Operationalising an unwelcome factor, Simona Zimmermann (Universität Stuttgart)

Paper 5	The Systemic Turn and Participatory Budgeting: The Case of Rio Grande do Sul, Sveinung Legard (OsloMet–Oslo Metropolitan University)
Discussant	Andrea Felicetti (KU Leuven)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Democratic Innovation within Political Parties</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>11:00-12:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Anna Kern (Ghent University) &amp; Emilie Van Haute (Université Libre de Bruxelles)</b>
Paper 1	Democratic Innovation within Political Parties: Do Party Reforms Appeal to Voters and Supporters?, Anika Gauja (University of Sydney)
Paper 2	Does it pay off? The effects of party leadership elections on parties' trustworthiness and their appeal to voters, Bram Wauters (Ghent University)
Paper 3	E-populism: a tension between ideals and reality, Dario Quattromani (Sapienza University of Rome)
Paper 4	Mapping Democratic Innovations in Latin American Parties, Pedro Floriano Ribeiro (Universidade Federal de São Carlos – UFSCar)
Paper 5	Trigger or treat? The impact of intra-party democratic reforms on membership levels, Vivien Sierens (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Discussant	Anna Kern (Ghent University)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Referendums: beyond the direct/indirect dichotomy</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>11:00 – 12:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 2 Room: 205</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Andé Bächtiger (Universität Stuttgart), Alice el-Wakil (University of Zurich) &amp; Spencer McKay (University of British Columbia)</b>
Paper 1	Choosing the Right Policy: A Comparison of National Level Referendums in Europe, Nanuli Silagadze (Åbo Akademi)
Paper 2	Classifying instruments of direct and participatory democracy: A functionalist approach, Maija Setälä (University of Turku)
Paper 3	Democratic Innovations and Ballot Measures, Spencer McKay (University of British Columbia)

	of British Columbia)
Paper 4	The role of citizens in referendum processes, Alice el-Wakil (University of Zurich)
Paper 5	Towards a non-populist theory of direct democracy, Nenad Stojanović (University of Lucerne)
Discussant	Ronald Van Crombrugge (KU Leuven)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Democratic Innovations in Environmental Politics</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>15:50-17:30</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Marit Hammond (University of Keele)</b>
Paper 1	Environmental Issue Complexity and Democratic Deliberation: demonstrating the limits or the need for innovative systems thinking?, Simon Niemeyer (University of Canberra)
Paper 2	From participation to policy-making: How participatory environmental governance actually changes policy (or not), Jens Newig (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg) & Edward Challies (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg)
Paper 3	Sustainable Prosperity and Democratic Theory and Practice, Marit Hammond (University of Keele)
Discussant	Marit Hammond (University of Keele)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Usage and impact of e-petitions</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>15:50 – 17:30</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 2 Room: 205</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Raphael Kies (University of Luxembourg)</b>
Paper 1	Do institutional e-petitions have an impact? The e-petitions from the Chamber of Deputies in Luxembourg, Raphael Kies (University of Luxembourg)
Paper 2	E-Petitions in Quebec: Between transfer and resistance, Jean-Benoit Pilet (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Paper 3	The e-petitioning between Mobilization and Clicktivism. Sociology of e-petitioners, Jean-Gabriel Contamin (Institut d'Études Politiques de Lille)

Paper 4	Who Participates? Proponents of Parliamentary Citizens' Initiatives and Petitions in Austrian Parliament, Jeremias Stadlmair (University of Vienna)
Discussant	Jean-Gabriel Contamin (Institut d'Études Politiques de Lille)

## August 24 Friday

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Democratic Innovation beyond Political Decision-Making</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:00-10:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Rikki Dean (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) &amp; Rod Dacombe (Kings College London)</b>
Paper 1	Doing Democracy Differently: How Can Participatory Innovations Take Hold in Deprived Areas?, Rod Dacombe (Kings College London)
Paper 2	Fugitive Coproduction: Making and Unmaking Hospitals in Scotland's National Health Service, Ellen Stewart (University of Edinburgh)
Paper 3	Modular Democracy: Building a Democratic System from Root Concepts, Rikki Dean (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)
Paper 4	Tyrannies of distributed leadership in co-production: power, process, paralysis, permission and politeness, Liz Richardson (University of Manchester)
Discussant	Brigitte Geißel (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>The micropolitics of deliberation and its macropolitical consequences in deliberative systems</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:00 – 10:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 2 Room: 205</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Simon Niemeyer (University of Canberra) &amp; Thamy Pogrebinschi (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)</b>
Paper 1	Cognitive Biases in Asynchronous Online Discussions, Dominik Wyss (Universität Stuttgart)
Paper 2	Does a Citizens' Budget Produce Better Citizens? Quasi-Experimental Research on Social Learning in Deliberative Democracy, TJ Renson (Ghent University)
Paper 3	Empathy and Intrapersonal Deliberation, Lala Muradova (KU Leuven)
Paper 4	Putting the systemic turn into a systematic test: Evidence from the interactive experiments of the public sphere and mini-publics in Japan, Airo Hino (Waseda University)
Paper 5	The potential of argument visualization platforms and empathy induction to promote humility in public discourse, Michael Morrell (University of



	Connecticut) & Paolo Spada (University of Westminster)
Discussant	Nicole Curato (University of Canberra)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Direct Democracy: Opinion Formation, Participation, and Effects on Citizens and Societal Outcomes</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>11:00-12:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Micha Germann (University of Leuven) &amp; Matt Qvortrup (University of Coventry)</b>
Paper 1	All Good Things Go Together? The Policy Effects of Direct Democracy, Matt Qvortrup (University of Coventry)
Paper 2	How Inclusive is Swiss Direct Democracy?, Uwe Serdült (University of Zurich)
Paper 3	In the name of the People/ In the People's will. Lessons from national and local Referendums in Bulgaria 2013-2016, Petia Gueorguieva (New Bulgarian University)
Paper 4	Opinion formation among equals? Promise and reality of assembly democracy in Switzerland, Sean Mueller (Universität Bern)
Paper 5	Principles or Pragmatism? Morality Politics in Direct Democracy, Céline Colombo (University of Zurich)
Discussant	Micha Germann (University of Leuven)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Expectations towards citizens in democratic innovations – good, bad or just different?</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>14:00 – 15:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Marta Wojciechowska (The London School of Economics &amp; Political Science) &amp; Maija Setälä (University of Turku)</b>
Paper 1	Collaborative governance: Between invited and invented spaces, Sonia Bussu (University College London)
Paper 2	Deliberative Democracy as a Critical Theory, Marit Hammond (University of Keele)
Paper 3	How do experts democratize democracy? How are participants' roles pre-structured by epistemic practices of representing publics, Volkan Sayman (TU Berlin)
Paper 4	Who should deliberate? Evidence from a survey experiment, Henrik Serup Christensen (Åbo Akademi)
Discussant	Simon Niemeyer (University of Canberra)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Facilitating Democratic Innovations through and within Social Movements</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>17:40 – 19:00</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Andrea Felicetti (KU Leuven) &amp; Selen A. Ercan (University of Canberra)</b>
Paper 1	Civil society, deliberation and the global public sphere: what models of climate change communication and public deliberation are needed to effectively influence climate policymaking?, Jennifer Kent (Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney)
Paper 2	Enhancing Citizen Participation through Democratic Innovation: The case of “Ahora Madrid” at Madrid City Hall, Fabiola Mota (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
Paper 3	Political Translation: How Deliberative Democracies Survive, Nicole Doerr (University of Copenhagen)
Discussant	Selen A. Ercan (University of Canberra)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Mini-Publics within Deliberative Democracy</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>17:40 – 19:00</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 2 Room: 208</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Kimmo Grönlund (Åbo Akademi) &amp; James Fishkin (Stanford University)</b>
Paper 1	Deliberative Designs: Micro and Macro, James Fishkin (Stanford University)
Paper 2	Democracy without Shortcuts: Can Deliberative Mini-publics enhance Citizens' Democratic Control?, Cristina Lafont (Northwestern University)
Paper 3	Do citizens that participate in citizen dialogues adhere to norms of deliberation?, PerOla Öberg (Uppsala Universitet)
Paper 4	From Mini-Publics to a Systemic Democratization of Democracy?, Yves Sintomer (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Paper 5	Who Polarizes? Political Knowledge and Opinion Change in Citizen Deliberation, Kaisa Herne (University of Tampere)
Discussant	Claus Offe (Hertie School of Governance)

## August 25 Saturday

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>From Democratic Innovations to Democratic Institutions? The Challenges of Institutionalising New Forms of Citizens' Participation</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>9:00-10:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Dimitri Courant (Université de Lausanne) &amp; Guillaume Petit (Université de Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne)</b>
Paper 1	Greater or Lesser Institutionalisation? French local participatory policies between unfinished institutionalisation and continuous experimental attempt, Guillaume Petit (Université de Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Paper 2	Introducing Mechanisms of Direct Democracy in the Mexican States: The Case of Mexico City, Martha Sandoval (University of Zurich)
Paper 3	Strife in the construction of the role of citizens: The case of Participatory Budgeting in Paris, Charlotte Fouillet (Université Paris 8 CSU-Cresppa, Centre Marc Bloch) & William Arhip-Paterson (Université de Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Paper 4	The European Citizens' Initiative at a Crossroads. Can EU participatory democracy be saved?, Paweł Glogowski (University of Wrocław)
Paper 5	The Institutionalisation of Deliberative Democracy in Ireland. The Irish Citizens' Assemblies from informal margins to official centre, Dimitri Courant (Université de Lausanne)
Discussant	Vincent Jacquet (Université Catholique de Louvain)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Deliberative Democracy and Populism: A (Mis)match?</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>11:00-12:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>André Bächtiger (Universität Stuttgart) &amp; Ine Goovaerts (University of Leuven)</b>
Paper 1	Beyond Demagogues and Deplorables: The Space for Deliberative Reason in Populist Rhetoric, Nicole Curato (University of Canberra)
Paper 2	Can deliberation reduce political misperceptions? Findings from deliberative experiment on immigration, Staffan Himerloos (University of Turku)
Paper 3	Defending democracy against technocracy and populism: deliberative democracy's strengths and challenges, Claudia Landwehr (Johannes

	Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)
Paper 4	Democratic innovations at a time of democratic challenge: the Irish experience of using constitutional mini-publics in debates over constitutional, institutional and policy reforms, David Farrell (University College Dublin)
Paper 5	How and Why Deliberative Democrats Should Eschew Populism, Ian O'Flynn (University of Newcastle)
Discussant	André Bächtiger (Universität Stuttgart)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Frontiers of Democratic Innovations</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>14:00 – 15:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 8 Floor: 1 Room: 106</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Spencer McKay (University of British Columbia)</b>
Paper 1	Difference as a Resource? An Experimental Study on the Effect of Social Group Salience on Expectations of Citizen Deliberation, Zohreh Khoban (Uppsala University)
Paper 2	The European Citizens' Initiative: Democratic innovation or just 'bread and circuses'? Lessons learned from the initiatives right2water and Ban glyphosate, Juliane Scholz (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)
Paper 3	The Politics of Public Participation. The First Citizens' Initiated Wisdom Council in Vorarlberg, Austria, Sandro Kapeller (Austrian Institute of Technology)
Paper 4	What should we expect from Participatory Institutions? A Theoretical and Methodological Framework, Thamy Pogrebinschi (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)
Paper 5	Who really 'benefits' from deliberation? A comparison between 'activists' and 'lurkers' in an asynchronic forum, Saskia Goldberg (Universität Stuttgart)
Discussant	Sofie Marien (KU Leuven)

<b>Panel Name</b>	<b>Procedural Fairness, Voice and Democratic Legitimacy</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>16:00 – 17:40</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>VMP 9 Floor: 3 Room: A316</b>
<b>Chair/s</b>	<b>Hannah Werner (KULeuven) &amp; Tom Tyler (Yale)</b>
Paper 1	By What Authority? Uncovering the Conditional Mandate from Referendums in EU Membership Decisions, Sveinung Arnesen (University of Bergen)
Paper 2	Dissatisfied or Alienated? A Cross-National Study on Preferences for Voice in Political Decision-Making Processes, Sofie Marien, Alejandro Arias-Lera, Andrea Felicetti (KU Leuven)
Paper 3	Theorizing the Role of Justifications in Creating Public Acceptance of Hard Decisions, Jenny De Fine Licht, Peter Esaiasson (University of Gothenburg)
Paper 4	This Process is Fair because I Won: How Social Dominance Orientation Moderates the Potential of Citizen Involvement to Foster Democratic Legitimacy, Hannah Werner, Sofie Marien (KU Leuven)
Paper 5	The Effect of Losing Repeatedly on Loser's Consent, Anna Kern (Ghent University), Lala Muradova (KU Leuven), Sofie Marien (KU Leuven)
Discussant	Tom Tyler (Yale)

## About the Section Chairs

**Nicole Curato (@NicoleCurato)** holds the Australian Research Council's Discovery Early Career Research Fellowship at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra. Her work on democratic innovations has been published in journals including *Policy Sciences*, *International Political Science Review*, and *Critical Policy Studies*, among others. She is the author of the forthcoming books *Democracy in a Time of Misery: From Spectacular Tragedies to Deliberative Politics* (Oxford University Press), and *Power in Deliberative Democracy: Norms, Forums, Systems* (2018, Palgrave, with Marit Hammond and John Min). She is the convener of Canberra's Deliberative Democracy Summer School.

**Sofie Marien (@\_SofieMarien)** holds a European Research Council Starting Grant at the Centre for Political Science Research at the University of Leuven. She is interested in how democratic innovations can foster democratic legitimacy and is directing a research team at KU Leuven tackling this question. Her work on democratic innovations and legitimacy has been published in journals including *Political Behavior*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Electoral Studies*, *Social Science Quarterly*, among others.