What’s the Big Deal about Democracy?
8 – 10 September 2008

Conference programme

Monday

Registration with tea/coffee on arrival: 10.30-11.30

Introduction: 11.45 – 12.15 Sallis Benney Theatre

Lunch 12.15 – 1

First Session: 1pm – 3pm

Room One: Gideon Calder
CRD
(Selina Sadat) Voices and decisions in the deliberative process

Dean Machin
University of Bristol, UK
A problem with justifying democracy on epistemic grounds

Harald Borgebund
University of York, UK
Liberalism and the value of democracy: intrinsic or instrumental?

Room Two: Paul Lucardie
GP BR
(Chair TBC) Democracy: an excellent idea? An exercise in political imagination

Anton Petrenko
Okanagan College, Canada
On moral foundations of democratic political organisation

Bernard Jackson
Washington and Lee University, USA
Democracy and its discontents
Tea/Coffee: 3 – 3.30

Second Session: 3.30 – 5

Room One: Emilia Brodencova
CRD
(Ian Bryan)
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
Democracy terrorized or unmasked? On terror and blues, hangovers and headaches of democracy

Tarik Kochi
Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland
Democracy, violence and the international order

Room Two: Isabell David
GP BR
(John McSweeney)
Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal
Rethinking liberal democracy. The decline of politics and its consequences

Aaron Winter
University of Abertay, Dundee, UK
Looking Outward: Domestic protest and the representation of democracy in America

Tuesday

Tea/Coffee on arrival

First Session: 9.30 – 11

Room One: Ayelet Harel-Shalev
CETLD
(Anton Petrenko)
Ben-Gurion University, Israel
“Performing” democracy in deeply divided societies – India and Israel as case studies

Ian Bryan and Peter Langford
Lancaster University and Edge Hill University, UK
Representative democracy and immigration: the effect of the exclusion of non-nationals

Room Two: Javier Franzé
GP BR
(Tarik Kochi)
Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
Democracy: fight for meaning or human rights as a universal truth? Strauss’ controversy with Schmitt and Weber

John McSweeney
Independent scholar
Giving politics an edge: Rancière and the anarchic principle of democracy
Tea/Coffee: 11-11.30

Second Session: 11.30 – 1

Room One:
CETLD
(Aaron Winter)

Steven Whitfield
Independent scholar
Voting away our power?

Hanno Birken-Bertsch
Independent scholar
The intangibility of democracy

Room Two:
GP BR
(Cezary Jósef Olbrromski)

Daniel Hausknost
Keele University, UK
Liberal democracy and the limits to change: legitimacy, opacity and neutrality

Jurgen de Wispelaere
Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
And never the twain shall meet? Universal voting rights and democratic competence

Lunch: 1 – 2.15

Third Session: 2.15 – 4.15

Room One:
CETLD
(Catherine West-Newman)

Lilian Moncrieff
University of Glasgow, UK
Thank you for holding, your participation is very valuable to us

Allen N. Fairfax
Marrimack College, USA
Alinsky-style organising as an alternative practice of democracy

Room Two:
GP BR
(Jurgen de Wispelaere)

Ismail Ibrahim and Aruna Bhagwan
Leicester Northwest Community Forum, UK
Public goods, local leadership and community well-being:
The case of Leicester North-West Community Forum

Christopher Jay
UCL, UK
Making truth safe from democracy

Wim de Jong
Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Democratizing democracy (1966 – 1983)

Room Three:
CRD
(Bernard Jackson)

Ruma Guha
B.K.C College, University of Calcutta, India
The democratic deficit of liberal democratic states

Tim Houwen
Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Populist democracy
Jasdev Rai
Sikh Human Rights Group, UK
Best of the worst? So who are the worsts?

Tea/Coffee: 4.15 - 4.30

**Keynote address:** Haidar Eid
4.30-5.30 Al-Aqsa University, Gaza, Palestine
Sallis Benney The realities of democracy today

**Conference drinks and buffet dinner**
6.30/7pm The Victory Inn, 6 Duke Lane, Brighton

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**Wednesday**

Tea/Coffee on arrival

First Session: 9.30 - 11

**Room One:**
Cezary Józef Olbromski
CETLD
(Ruma Guha)
University of Maria Curie-Sklodowska in Lublin, Poland
Collective (post?) democracy: intentional legitimisation of the de-political power

Catherine Lane West-Newman
University of Auckland, New Zealand
Democracy and emotions: uneasy connections?

**Room Two:**
Alison Assiter
GP BR
(Evert van der Zweerde)
University of the West of England
Rights, democracy, madness and evil

Christos Boukalas
Lancaster University
Governement by experts: Counterterrorism intelligence and the cancellation of democracy

**Room Three:**
Jide Ojo
CRD
(Frank Ravitch)
Centre for Applied Philosophy and Strategic Thinking, Nigeria
Democratisation in Africa: imperatives of cultural integration

Maria Kyriakidou
American College of Thessaloniki, Greece
Lessons from an unsuccessful alternative to democratic experiment: the study of an idiosyncratic Greek eco-feminism
Tea/Coffee: 11 – 11.30

Second Session: 11.30 – 1

Room One:
CETLD
(Chair TBC)

Evert van der Zweerde
Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Check the balance! Reflections on democracy as a paradoxical process

Frank Ravitch
Michigan State University College of Law, USA
The hermeneutics of liberal democracies and natural rights discourse

Room Two:
GP BR
(Chair TBC)

Paul Reynolds
Edge Hill University, UK
The vagaries of democracy: meritocracy, mediocracy or mass rule?

Mark McGovern
Edge Hill University, UK
Peace, civilisation and good governance? Democracy, terrorism and transitional justice in Afghanistan

Lunch: 1 –2.15

Third Session: 2.15-3.45

Room One:
Pelin Ayan
CETLD
(Bilkent University, Turkey)
The effects of intra-party democracy revisited – the case of Turkey

Cyril-Mary Pius Olatunji
University of Zululand, South Africa
Democracy in Africa and Africa in democracy: a critical notice

Room Two:
Sotiris Themistokelous
GP BR
(Chair TBC)
Birkbeck College, University of London, UK
Global governance and liberal democratic nation-states: from national to liberal identity construction

Makoto Suzuki
Nanzan University Institute for Social Ethics, Japan
Does democracy have a unique right to rule? A critique of Thomas Christiano’s democratic conception of legitimate political authority

Tea/Coffee: 3.45 – 4.15

Plenary: 4.15 – 5 Sallis Benney Theatre