

THE TELOS PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE

THE 2014 TELOS CONFERENCE

THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE, IN COLLABORATION
WITH DEUTSCHES HAUS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, PRESENTS

**THE DIFFICULTY OF DEMOCRACY
DIAGNOSES AND PROGNOSES**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2014

NEW YORK CITY

THE 2014 TELOS CONFERENCE WILL ANALYZE THE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF
DEMOCRACY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE PRECISE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES
OF THIS FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN COMPARISON TO ALTERNATIVES, THE REASONS FOR
ITS RARITY AND VOLATILITY, AND THE FACTORS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ITS STABILITY.

SPEAKERS

JOSEPH BENDERSKY · RUSSELL BERMAN · GORAN BLIX

ARYEH BOTWINICK · MITCHELL DEAN · FRANÇOIS DEBRIX · WAYNE HUDSON

ULRIKE KISTNER · TIM LUKE · GREG MELLEUSH · ADRIAN PABST

DAVID PAN · FRANCIS FOX PIVEN · MARK WEINER

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET

TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO DEUTSCHESHAUS.RSVP@NYU.EDU

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

THE DIFFICULTY OF DEMOCRACY DIAGNOSES AND PROGNOSSES

In spite of its advantages as an ideal form of government, democracy has proven to be remarkably difficult to establish and to maintain in reality. While it remained a rare exception for much of human history, its spread in the modern world has not had the character of a triumphant march but rather of a tortured path dominated by failed attempts, transformations into dictatorship, and degenerations into civil war. Even the most successful cases, Great Britain, France, and the United States, were marked by a concurrence of the rise of democratic institutions with an imperialist expansion that created a *de facto* hierarchy of citizens and non-citizens familiar also in ancient Athens. The purpose of the Eighth Annual Telos conference will be to analyze the key characteristics of democracy in order to determine, first, the precise advantages and disadvantages of this form of government in comparison to alternatives, second, the reasons for its rarity and volatility, and, third, the factors that are essential for its stability. The conference will address issues such as classical and modern theories of democracy, case studies of successful or failed democracies around the world, antinomies and conflicts within established democracies, revolutionary movements as progenitors of democracy, degeneration of democracies into other forms of government, the importance of culture and representation for founding and maintaining democracy, and the economic requirements and consequences of democracy.

To attend the conference, please R.S.V.P. to deutscheshaus.rsvp@nyu.edu

CONFERENCE LOCATION

The conference will be held at Deutsches Haus at New York University, 42 Washington Mews, New York, NY 10003. Deutsches Haus is located in the historical setting of the Washington Mews, just north of Washington Square Park in the Heart of Greenwich Village. For additional information about Deutsches Haus, visit their website at <http://deutscheshaus.as.nyu.edu/page/home>.

BY SUBWAY

The nearest subway stop is West 4th Street/Washington Square subway station, at the intersection of West 4th St and 6th Ave. The stop can be reached on the A, C, and E trains as well as the B, D, F, and M trains.

From the West 4th Street station, walk north on 6th Ave. until you reach Waverly Place. Turn right on Waverly Place and walk three blocks east, passing Washington Square Park on your right, until you reach University Place. Turn left on University Place and walk half a block north until you reach Washington Mews. The entrance to Deutsches Haus will be on your left.

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Introduction

9:00–9:15 AM

Welcoming Remarks

Juliane Camfield (Deutsches Haus) and David Pan (Executive Director, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute)

Session 1

9:15–10:45 AM

Structures of Democracy

Auditorium

Moderator:

Russell A. Berman

The Necessity of Homogeneity for Democracy: Schmittian Theory Tested against History

Joseph Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University (US)

Democratic Freedom or Democratic Despotism:

Two traditions of Democracy in Australia

Greg Melleuish, University of Wollongong (Australia)

Institutionality, Political Friendship, and Polity in Recent Brazilian and Venezuelan Politics

Tony Spanakos, Montclair State University (US)

Democratic Tyranny and the “Mixed Constitution” Alternative

Adrian Pabst, University of Kent (United Kingdom)

Session 2

11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Transformations of Liberalism

Auditorium

Moderator:

Tim Luke

Reflexive Governance: The Latest Stage of Negotiated Democracy, But with a Neoliberal Normative Valence?

Richard Weiner, Rhode Island College (US)

Liberal Theory, Encumbrance, and the Antihero:

Exploring a Constructive Synergy

James King, University of Aberdeen (United Kingdom)

Kierkegaard’s Critique of Democratic Time

Rob Wyllie, University of Virginia (US)

Loyalty to Whom? A Critique of Liberal Statism and Liberal Cosmopolitanism

Rochelle Duford, Binghamton University (US)

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Session 3

11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Mediatized Democracy

Seminar Room

** Attendance limited to registered conference participants*

Moderator:

Adrian Pabst

The Specter and the Glory:

Agamben and Derrida on Spectacular Democracy

Anthony Adler, Yonsei University (South Korea)

On Limits and Possibilities: Democracy as Dialectics

Pablo Bustinduy, New School for Social Research (US)

Digital Democracies:

The Virtual, the Real, and the Foreclosure of Dissent

Matt Applegate, SUNY Binghamton (US)

Staging Democracy: The Transition from Participation to Spectatorship in Early Athenian Poetry and Democracy and its Relevance for Contemporary Political Life

Travis Holloway, SUNY Stonybrook (US)

Lunch

12:30–1:30 PM

Session 4

1:30–3:00 PM

Democracy and Representation

Auditorium

Moderator:

Joseph Bendersky

French Republican Idolatry: Jules Vallès and the Cult of Great Men

Goran Blix, Princeton University (US)

Three Forms of Modern Democratic Political Acclamation

Mitchell Dean, Copenhagen Business School (Denmark)

The Digital Fog of War:

Baudrillard, the Violence of Representation, and the Fate of Online Democracy

François Debrix, Virginia Tech (US), and Ryan Artrip, Virginia Tech (US)

The Kasba Square in the Medina of Tunis, Tunisia and the Jasmine Revolution:

The Ritual as an Expression of the Social and the Political

Hamza Zeghlache, University Ferhat Abbas (Algeria)

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Session 5

3:15–4:45 PM

Democracy in a Global Context
Auditorium

Moderator:
Russell A. Berman

Democracy and the Global Environment

David Goldsmith, Virginia Tech (US)

The Multinational City: Alien Suffrage and Democratic Theory

Rolf Hugoson, Umeå University (Sweden)

Dialectic of Democracy:

A Double Definition of Truth in Social and Political Spheres

Arash Falasiri, York University (Canada), and Nazanin Ghanavizi, York University (Canada)

Directing Democracy:

Horizontalism, Representation, and the Role of the Intellectual

Jeremy Withers, University of Toronto (Canada)

Session 6

3:15–4:45 PM

Democracy in the Americas
Seminar Room

Moderator:
Marcia Pally

* Attendance limited to registered conference participants

Listen to Us: Bolivia and Struggles to Define the Democratic State

David Knowlton, Utah Valley College (US)

On the Dissolution of the *Sensus Communis* within Chavismo:

The Meaning of *Revolución en la Revolución*

Carlos Gasperi, Rutgers University (US)

Democratic Citizenship and the Figure of the “Criminal Alien”

Matt Whitt, Duke University (US)

Governmentality, *Oikonomia*, Form of Life:

Agamben and Foucault on Being and Acting

Jeffrey Bussolini, CUNY/ABMSC (US)

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Session 7

5:00–6:30 PM

The Individual and the Collective

Seminar Room

** Attendance limited to registered conference participants*

Moderator:

David Pan

Francis Fox Piven, City University of New York (US)

**Displacing, Dissipating, and Deliberating Democracy:
The Impoverishment of Popular Rule under Progressivism**

Tim Luke, Virginia Tech (US)

Democratic Deficits or Deficitary Democracy?

Faultlines between Liberal Democracy and Democratic Socialism in South Africa

Ulrike Kistner, University of Pretoria (South Africa)

The Legal Foundations of Individualism

Mark Weiner, Rutgers University (US)

Dinner

7:00–10:00 PM

** Attendance limited to registered conference participants*

Taverna Di Bacco

175 Ludlow St

New York, NY 10002

www.tavernadibacco.com

The Taverna Di Bacco is located at 175 Ludlow Street, in the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

By subway, take the F train to the 2nd Avenue Station stop. Walk five blocks east on Houston Street until you reach the intersection of Houston and Ludlow Streets. Turn right (south) onto Ludlow Street. The restaurant will be on your right side.

For more information, visit the Taverna di Bacco website at www.tavernadibacco.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Session 8

9:00–10:30 AM

Democracy and Complexity
Auditorium

Moderator:
Marcia Pally

**The Entropy of Democracy in The System of Capital:
The Limits and Potentials of Democracy and Its Social Reproduction**
Robert King, Sierra Nevada College (US)

**Democratization and its Obstruction:
A Complexity Perspective**
Michael McCullough, CUNY (US)

Tarde and Schmitt on the Logic of the Duel
James Chriss, Cleveland State University (US)

Defining the “Human” in Human Rights beyond Being-Toward-Death
Roger Green, Metropolitan State University of Denver (US)

Session 9

9:00–10:30 AM

Religion and Democracy
Seminar Room

Moderator:
Joseph Bendersky

** Attendance limited to registered conference participants*

Theologizing Agonism
Ashley Woodiwiss, Erskine College (US)

The Positive Potential of Religion for Enhancing the Prospects of Democracy
Matthew Bagot, Spring Hill College (US)

**Beloved Community or “Foe” Thinking? How the Religious Personalism of the
Black Church might heal American Democracy**
Kenneth Johnson, Oakland Community Organizations (US)

**Balancing Self-Reliance and Solidarity:
Conceptualizing Political Space in Whitman, Tocqueville, and Hawthorne**
Steve Knepper, Erskine College (US)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Session 10

10:45 AM–12:15 PM

Democracy and Political Theology
Auditorium

Moderator:
Adrian Pabst

Prospects for Democracy and the American Retreat

Russell Berman, Stanford University (US)

How Theology Can Reform Democracy

Wayne Hudson, Charles Sturt University (Australia)

Law and Mysticism:

Reb Chaim Wolozhoner and What He has to Teach Us about the Metaphysical Status of Liberal Democracy

Aryeh Botwinick, Temple University (US)

Representing the People in a Republic:

Perspectives on the First Plebeian Secession

David Pan, University of California, Irvine (US)