

Democracy

Other

Democratic Representation in Crisis: what kinds of theories for what kinds of research, and to what ends?

International Conference: Tuesday 9 (Villa la Pietra, NYU-Florence) and Wednesday 10 (Villa la Fonte, EUI/MWP) April 2013.

Call for Papers to Max Weber Fellows.

Voter ID laws and a creaking Electoral College in the United States, protests against 'democratic deficits' in Brussels, Dublin, Rome and Athens, increasingly noisy praise for authoritarian capitalism in Singapore and Beijing – the contemporary political world is confronted with the nature and limits of democratic representation. The [La Pietra Dialogues at NYU-Florence](#) have regularly probed these issues, with distinguished scholars leading sessions on dissent, the euro crisis and the US elections. The [Max Weber Programme at the EUI](#), meanwhile, is home to post-doctoral scholars across four disciplines and from around the globe. Their research this year is concerned with electoral dynamics, judicial independence, labor rights, trans-national social movements and constitutional law, to name just a few areas connected to the question of democratic representation.

This multi-disciplinary conference, co-sponsored by the La Pietra Dialogues and the Max Weber Programme, brings together invited senior scholars specialized in political theory and philosophy with Max Weber Fellows. The two-day conference will focus on how political and philosophical theories of democratic representation inform empirical social scientific research. For example, what can recent theories of global justice and democracy offer a social scientist researching electoral processes or political regimes? What is a reasonable minimum condition for a government to be classified as 'democratic' or 'representative' of its citizens, and how can the social sciences help to answer this question with respect to any given state? Finally, how do such debates speak to contemporary political situations, such as the upcoming Italian elections or European integration, and to our scholarly practice?

These and other questions will be addressed across six panels, each comprising two 30-minute papers followed by discussion. In each panel, a senior invited scholar and a Max Weber Fellow will give papers that enter into theoretical-empirical dialogue on a specific aspect of our broader rubric.

Proposed specific aspects include **legitimacy, democratization, representation, partisanship, authority, participation and accountability.**

Confirmed senior guest scholars include [Annabelle Lever \(Geneva\)](#), [Joshua Tucker \(NYU\)](#), [Daniel Viehoff \(Sheffield/Yale\)](#), [Donatella della Porta \(EUI\)](#), [Philippe Schmitter \(EUI\)](#) and [Alessandro Pizzorno \(EUI\)](#).

We welcome papers from ECO/SPS/HEC/LAW and hope MW Fellows will recognize this as a good opportunity to work across standard methodological divides on issues of contemporary political importance and in close dialogue with a senior distinguished scholar. The proceedings will be published as a collected volume.

If you would like to participate, please send a short abstract (250 words max), referencing the work of at least one of the invited scholars, to the organizers: [Brendan Hogan](#) & [Simon Jackson](#) by noon (Italian time) on **Wednesday 20 February**.