

New Adventures in Democratic Theory: Constituency, Duty, Technology

Venue: [Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften](#)
Am Wingertsberg 4
61348 Bad Homburg vd Höhe

Date: 4th and 5th July, 2019

Conference description

Normative democratic theory traditionally operates with an oversimplified model of democratic practice. Abstracting from complexity is essential for isolating core values. But further progress in democratic theory may require considering more complex models of political organization and behavior. When we ask what democratic theory requires for important aspects of contemporary political life, often the answer given by received views is highly indeterminate. And when we work out democratic principles for new or undertheorized phenomena, these principles sometimes force us to reconsider foundational pillars of the democratic ideal. This conference explores specific extensions of the democratic ideal to further reaches of social life: the design of parliamentary constituencies, the duties of democratic citizens, and the legitimacy of digital technology. Besides stimulating new thinking about these areas, the conference hopes to encourage discussion on the metatheoretical question of what “high” political theory can learn from “mid-level” investigations.

Provisional schedule

[Thursday, 4 July](#)

[14:00](#) Registration

[14:30](#) Introduction: Rainer Forst (*Justitia Amplificata* / GU Frankfurt)

[14:45](#) **Panel: Electoral Constituencies: Definitions and Delimitations**

Marcus Häggrot (*Justitia Amplificata*)

Michael James (Bucknell)

Joseph Lacey (University College Dublin)

Chair: Jiewuh Song (*Justitia Amplificata* / Seoul National University)

[17:45](#) Reception / BBQ

Friday, 5 July

10:00 Coffee

10:30 **Panel: Democratic Legitimacy and Digital Technology**

Ted Lechterman (*Justitia Amplificata*)

Fabienne Peter (Warwick)

Nien-hê Hsieh (Harvard Business School)

Chair: Mirjam Müller (*Justitia Amplificata*)

13:30 Lunch

15:00 **Panel: Citizens and the Duties of Democracy**

Chiara Destri (*Justitia Amplificata*)

Annabelle Lever (Sciences Po)

Maria Paola Ferretti (Normative Orders)

Chair: Stefan Gosepath (*Justitia Amplificata* / FU Berlin)

18:00 Drink reception