The State Of Participatory Democratic Theory

This volume examines the principal forms of direct citizen decisionmaking in the United States and two relatively new systems for enhancing the role of citizens in New York City governance. Zimmerman offers descriptive and analytic information on the 356-year institution—the open town meeting—the referendum, the initiative, the recall, and the New York community school boards and community boards. He also discusses the impact of direct citizen action on representative government; the importance of open government and accurate and full information on issues to assist citizens in resolving issues; the need for ethical standards for elected and public officials, to ensure that citizens are not burdened by malefeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance; and the need for a grant of local discretionary authority by the state. ISBN 0-275-92132-8: $37.95. Transcript of papers presented at a national seminar.

In this work, Peter Breiner explores the implications of Max Weber's political sociology for political judgment and democratic theory. In the process, he rejects what is problematic and retains what is valuable in the theorist's political thought and then uses the results to elaborate upon and extend democratic theory. Breiner demonstrates the tension between the subjective and objective dimensions of Weber's logic of rationality, and describes how Weber exploits this tension in judging the feasibility of social and political forms such as socialism, radical democracy, capitalism, and the nation. Breiner develops a concept of participatory democracy from within Weber's logic of power and legitimate domination. Unlike any of the many existing arguments for participatory democracy, it claims that direct participation in politics requires that citizens be willing to take moral risks and take responsibility for the paradoxical outcomes of political action. The book situates Weber in relation to great political theorists of the past, such as Thucydides, Machiavelli, Rousseau, and Gramsci, as well as engaging some of the most important Weberian scholarship. Rigorous, tightly argued, and concise, the volume will interest both political and social theorists: the former because of the focus on judgment and participatory democracy and the latter for the author's thorough and novel treatment of Weber. Jürgen Habermas' Werk Faktizität und Geltung. Beiträge zur Diskurstheorie des Rechts und des demokratischen Rechtsstaats (1992) verdient aus zwei Gründen besonderes Interesse: Erstens gehört es zu den Hauptwerken dieses bedeutenden Philosophen, der darin eine neue Begründung der Prinzipien des demokratischen Rechtsstaats, zugleich aber auch eine Summe seiner sozialtheoretischen und ethischen Denkens (Theorie des kommunikativen Handelns und Diskursethik) präsentiert; und zweitens ist dieses Werk ein herausragender Beitrag zur neueren Rechtphilosophie, da darin in systematischer Weise eine innovative Theorie des Rechts entwickelt wird, die das Erfordernis der Faktizität des Rechts

Contributed articles presented at an international seminar organized by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; with reference to India. „The times demand action and reaction, but not despair,” contends Ronald M. Mason in this soundly constructed argument that all should have more control over their lives and that this control should be exercised not only in the home and during hours of leisure but in the workplace as well. Mason indicts liberalism, theoretically an ally of democracy, as the chief culprit in depriving us of a voice in the workplace, where most of us spend nearly a third of our days. The problem is that classical liberalism divides life into two spheres: the social and the political. Life, liberty, and property—everything, in fact, that the human being values—fall into the social sphere. Therefore liberalism champions the social sphere, scorns the political. To the liberal, the political sphere is sordid, a thing to be avoided except by those few governmental representatives we elect to protect life, liberty, and property. Yet the political constitutes a major portion of our lives, and, according to Mason, it is at the level of the workplace that we can acquire the habits of participation that will carry over into our community lives as well. He demonstrates that people who participate in decision making in the workplace are likely to enter the governmental arena. Participation creates involvement; nonparticipation breeds apathy. Thus, Mason argues, democratic participation in the workplace benefits both the individual and the community.

Citizen Participation in Multi-level Democracies offers an overview of new forms of participatory democracy in federally and regionally organised multi-level states. Its four sections focus on the conceptual foundations of participation, the implementation and instruments of democracy, examples from federal and regional States, and the emergence of participation on the European level. There is today a growing disaffection amongst the citizens of many states towards the traditional models of representative democracy. This book highlights the various functional and structural problems with which contemporary democracies are confronted and which lie at the root of their peoples' discontent. Within multi-level systems in particular, the fragmentation of state authority generates feelings of powerlessness among citizens. In this context, citizens' participation can be a useful complement to the representative and direct forms of democracy.


News from the world of elections. A collaborative, international effort to reflect on a broad range of issues relating to globalization. Several encompassing themes are addressed including ideals proper to the democratic nation-state and their relationship to a globalizing culture. In fledgling democracies marked by patronage, ethnic politics, and elite capture, what motivates citizens to participate in politics? Representative democracy is often seen as a stable institutional system unsuceptible to change. However, the preferences of the broad public are changing, and representative, group-based democracy has lost importance. This development has made it necessary to change established ways of decision making and to introduce participatory democratic innovations. Many national and sub-national governments have followed this route and have implemented various kinds of participatory innovations, i.e. the inclusion of citizens into processes of political 'will-formation' and decision making. This book analyzes and evaluates the various effects of these innovations in Europe, providing a bigger picture of the benefits and disadvantages different democratic innovations can result in. Cooperation between state actors and non-state actors is widespread and has probably existed since the beginning of modern democracy. Currently, demands for the integration of non-state actors, especially citizens and civil society, into governance processes can be heard from many politicians, academics, and
international organizations. And, indeed, many contemporary democratic activities are carried out in cooperation between non-state and state actors. The book highlights the budgetary processes conducted in cooperation of non-state and state actors. The book also looks at European, small-scale, deliberative procedures that emphasize discursive decision making - in contrast to the aggregative modus of direct democracy. Deliberative innovations are mostly adopted in experiments and small scale units.

Can a political project exist outside of the power relations from which it is trying to emerge? In the twilight of Brazil's twenty-one year military regime, a new union movement emerged in São Paulo's industrial region, giving life to a new political party: the Workers' Party. The electoral success enjoyed by the party enabled it to champion a whole raft of democratic reforms and Brazil is now celebrated as a laboratory for popular and participatory forms of government. However, through analysis of the trajectory of the Worker Party's democratic experiment, the true challenge of embedding democracy inside existing state structures emerges. Drawing on long-term ethnographic research, Victor Albert provides a critical analysis of citizen participation in Santo André, in the region of Greater São Paulo where the Workers' Party was founded, holding a microscope to the power relations between political appointees, public officials and local community activists. Albert also reveals how different social actors think and feel about citizen participation away from formal assemblies, and how some participants engage in what is a tenuous, and at times mutually distrustful, tactical and strategic relationship with political patrons.

Comparative European Politics: Distinct Democracies, Common Challenges provides a complete guide to European politics through a comparative lens. The authors explore not only the 27 European Union member states, but also other European systems such as the UK, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, to help readers understand the patterns that have shaped modern Europe. Organised thematically, the book is structured in three parts, beginning with elections and representation, moving on to examine institutions and practices of government, and finally covering common challenges and their effect on European countries. Comparative European Politics takes students carefully through recent developments such as the migrant crisis, the financial crisis and growing instability in Europe. The book is enriched with helpful learning features, such as 'over to you' boxes, which include suggestions for comparisons, and encourage students to test arguments, and form their own perspective on key issues. 'Thinking comparatively' boxes at the end of each chapter describe published research to help students evaluate theories against empirical evidence. Digital formats and resources: Comparative European Politics is available for students and institutions to purchase in a variety of formats, and is supported by online resources. - The e-book offers a mobile experience and convenient access along with functionality tools, navigation features, and links that offer extra learning support: www.oxfordtextbooks.co.uk/ebooks- The book is also accompanied by resources including, for students: Over thirty European country profiles, from Austria to the UK, with useful data for comparison including population size, gender equality, political parties, and electoral systems. Trend graphs with country data to help students to distinguish between European countries. - For lecturers: Save time preparing for seminars with activities created to help engage students. Helpful links to relevant online tools with instructions for use, including voting advice applications from European countries. This Handbook concentrates on democracy beyond the traditional governmental structures to explore the full scope of participatory governance. It argues that it is a political task to turn the shift from government to governance into participatory forms, and reflects on the notion of democracy and participatory governance, and how they can relate to each other. The volume offers key examples of how governance can be turned into a participatory form. Despite increasing interest in how involvement in local government can improve governance and lead to civic renewal, questions remain about participation's real impact. This book investigates participatory budgeting - a mainstay now of World Bank, UNDP, and USAID development programs - to ask whether its reforms truly make a difference in deepening democracy and empowering civil society. Looking closely at eight cities in Brazil, comparing those that carried out participatory budgeting reforms between 1997 and 2000 with those that did not, the authors examine whether and how...
institutional reforms take effect. Bootstrapping Democracy highlights the importance of local-level innovations and democratic advances, charting a middle path between those who theorize that globalization hollows out democracy and those who celebrate globalization as a means of fostering democratic values. Uncovering the state's role in creating an "associational environment," it reveals the contradictory ways institutional reforms shape the democratic capabilities of civil society and how outcomes are conditioned by relations between the state and civil society.

Participatory democracy calls for the creation and proliferation of practices and institutions that enable individuals and groups to better determine the conditions in which they act and relate to others. Michael Menser's timely book We Decide! is arguably the most comprehensive treatment of participatory democracy. He explains the three waves of participatory democracy theory to show that this movement is attentive to the mechanics of contemporary political practices. Menser also outlines "maximal democracy," his own view of participatory democracy that expands people's abilities to shape their own lives, reduce inequality, and promote solidarity. We Decide! draws on liberal, feminist, anarchist, and environmental justice philosophies as well as in-depth case studies of Spanish factory workers, Japanese housewives, and Brazilian socialists to show that participatory democracy actually works. Menser concludes his study by presenting a reconstructed version of the state that is shaped not by corporations but by inclusive communities driven by municipal workers, elected officials, and ordinary citizens working together. In this era of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, the participatory democracy proposed in We Decide! is more significant than ever.

Drawing on the tools of game design to fix democracy, A comprehensive text on the theory and practice of participatory governance, Introduction to Public Participation explores the theory and practice of citizen participation in decision-making and problem-solving in government. The book examines the values and guiding principles that have emerged from the practice of public participation in the 21st Century. It offers clear explanations for the fundamental rationales behind participation and clarifies traditional models for participation, including more recent cutting-edge models that have emerged for both face-to-face and online participation. The book is filled with illustrative examples throughout and contains detailed case analyses. This important text puts the spotlight on the need for cross-sector, long-term civic engagement planning, and provides guidance for future leaders who are determined to improve the ways that democracies function. Helps students and practitioners understand the theory behind and practice of participatory governance.

Contains a wealth of detailed case studies that explore the application of public participation. Covers vital issues such as immigration, race, and difference; public finance, poverty, and economic development; land use and the environment; public safety and public health; and schools and education. Accompanying instructor resources include: case studies and research from www.participedia.net, discussion questions, sample assignments, and classroom activities.

During America's Progressive Era at the beginning of the twentieth century, democracy was more alive than it is today. Social activists and intellectuals of that era formed institutions where citizens educated themselves about pressing issues and public matters. While these efforts at democratic participation have largely been forgotten, their rediscovery may represent our best hope for resolving the current crisis of democracy in the United States. Mattson explores the work of early activists like Charles Zueblin, who tried to advance adult education at the University of Chicago, and Frederic Howe, whose People's Institute sparked the nationwide forum movement. He then turns to the social centers movement, which began in Rochester, New York, in 1907 with the opening of public schools to adults in the evening as centers for debate over current issues. Mattson tells how this simple program grew into a national phenomenon and cites its achievements and political ideals, and he analyzes the political thought of activists within the movement—notably Mary Parker Follett and Edward Ward—to show that these intellectuals had a profound understanding of what was needed to create vigorous democratic practices. Creating a Democratic Public challenges us to reconsider how we think about democracy by bringing us into critical dialogue with the past and exploring the work of yesterday's activists. Combining historical analysis, political theory, and social criticism, Mattson
analyzes experiments in grassroots democracy from the Progressive Era and explores how we might foster more public involvement in political deliberation today. Focusing on how we might foster more public involvement in political deliberation today. Focusing on the pressing issue of punishment, Punishment, Participatory Democracy, and the Jury argues for participatory institutional designs as antidotes to the American penal state. Citizen action in institutions like the jury and restorative justice programs can foster the attunement, reflectiveness, and full-bodied communication needed as foundations for widespread civic responsibility for criminal justice. Das Vertrauen in die Politiker ist an einem Tiefpunkt angelangt, die repräsentative Politik steckt in einer Krise. Ist die Demokratie am Ende? Ist unsere Gesellschaft vom Virus der Entpolitisierung befallen? Simon Tormey zeigt in diesem provocativ-anregenden Buch, dass das Gegenteil der Fall ist. Die Bürgerinnen und Bürger sehen sich zunehmend selbst als Hauptakteure der Politik, was das Ende der repräsentativen Politik sein könnte, wie wir sie bisher kannten. Gleichzeitig entwickeln sich aktuell aufregend neue Formen politischen Engagements und damit auch Chancen auf eine grundlegende Erneuerung der Demokratie. Demokratische Repräsentation war ein Produkt der nationalstaatlichen Modernisierung. Die neue Politik entspricht der individualisierten Welt, in der sich die Demokratie nun einrichtet. Sie wird bestimmt von multiplen Identitäten und komplexen Geografien, von Migration, Globalisierung und vielschichtigen Souveränitäten, von staatlichen und nichtstaatlichen Machtquellen. Da das Vertrauen in althergebrachte Institutionen erschüttert ist, bleibt die repräsentative Demokratie zwar bestehen, wird aber um und ausgebaut, sie wird "demokratischer". Wir sind in eine Zeit des Rollenwandels der Parteien und der Politiker eingetreten: Repräsentative Institutionen stehen neben neuen bürgerschaftlichen Initiativen, die durch soziale Medien schnell zusammenfinden und den unterschiedlichsten Bedürfnissen eine Stimme geben. Sie wirken hin auf eine unmittelbare politische Resonanz, auf Kontrolle und Korrektur von politischen Entscheidungen. Simon Tormey ergründet die gegenwärtigen Veränderungen, indem er ein vielfältiges Tableau von Beispielen betrachtet, von der Situation in Griechenland und den Protesten in Spanien, Brasilien und der Türkei, bis hin zu der Entstehung neuer Initiativen wie Podemos, Anonymous und Occupy. This book provides an innovative theoretical and empirical exploration of the political participation and democratic capability of people living in authoritarian states. Merging perspectives from sociology and political science, the book demonstrates that despite autocratic restrictions on opposition, there is often still leeway for people to express themselves as political agents and to develop democratic capability. The first two chapters problematise political participation and develop an interdisciplinary three-domain framework that allows for critical engagement with and appreciation of the contexts and varied ways in which participatory activities occur. This framework is applied to analyse six country case studies: Singapore, Jordan, Belarus, Cuba, Nigeria, and Vietnam. Drawing on a range of data sources and different analytical entry points, the book investigates the substantive opportunities people have in exercising political agency and the implications for democratic capability. The book concludes by summarising the emergent themes and examining the potential of applying this method of inquiry in other political contexts. Encompassing both governmental and societal practices, the book offers insights into state-society relations and their role in constructing political values and goals for participation, which people negotiate and mediate to inform their choices, modes, and forms of civic engagement. These insights present a broad approach towards the study of participation, with relevance for understanding political participation in various societies under non-democratic and democratic rule alike. This book will be useful for researchers and students interested in political dynamics and intersections with economic, cultural, and social aspects of development. It will also be beneficial for practitioners interested in participatory actions and social change. In our current era of deep distrust in our politics and political institutions, there is also a pervasive sense that social problems are so overwhelmingly complex that it is virtually impossible to solve them. In Democracy Inside, Albert W. Dzur looks at recent instances of effective citizen action across the United States to develop a grounded political theory of democratic change, one in which citizens effectively engage with institutions. Drawing on qualitative interviews with practitioners involved in democratic schools,
restorative and community justice, and collaborative city governance, Dzur stresses that we need to turn to ordinary, daily life and focus on how "democratic professionals" are breaking down barriers and bring people into decision-making processes at the granular level. These reformers are not transforming high politics or national-scale institutions, but they have been effective at changing the routine, everyday practices where people live and work. As Democracy Inside shows, if we really want to expand the democracy and build citizen engagement intensity in American life, we need to look beyond traditional politics and transform our classrooms, courtrooms, and offices into accessible civic spaces.

Staffan Kumlin and Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen bring together political scientists and sociologists from different and frequently separated research communities to examine policy feedback in European welfare states. In doing so, they offer a rich menu. Since the 1960s, participatory discourses and techniques have been at the core of decision making processes in a variety of sectors around the world—a phenomenon often referred to as the participatory turn. Over the years, this participatory turn has given birth to a large array of heterogeneous participatory practices developed by a wide variety of organizations and groups, as well as by governments. Among the best-known practices of citizen participation are participatory budgeting, citizen councils, public consultations, etc. However, these experiences are sometimes far from the original 1960s' radical conception of participatory democracy, which had a transformative dimension and aimed to overcome unequal relationships between the state and society and emancipate and empower citizens in their daily lives. This book addresses four sets of questions: what do participatory practices mean today?; what does it mean to participate for participants, from the perspective of citizenship building?; how the processes created by the participatory turn have affected the way political representation functions?; and does the participatory turn also mean changing relationships and dynamics among civil servants, political representatives, and citizens? Overall, the contributions in this book illustrate and grasp the complexity of the so-called participatory turn. It shows that the participatory turn now includes several participatory democracy projects, which have different effects on the overall system depending on the principles that they advocate. This book was originally published as a special issue of the Journal of Civil Society.

Participatory democracy innovations aimed at bringing citizens back into local governance processes are now at the core of the international democratic development agenda. Municipalities around the world have adopted local participatory mechanisms of various types in the last two decades, including participatory budgeting, the flagship Brazilian program, and participatory planning, as it is the case in several Mexican municipalities. Yet, institutionalized participatory mechanisms have had mixed results in practice at the municipal level. So why and how does success vary? This book sets out to answer that question. Defining democratic success as a transformation of state-society relationships, the author goes beyond the clientelism/democracy dichotomy and reveals that four types of state-society relationships can be observed in practice: clientelism, disempowering co-option, fragmented inclusion, and democratic cooperation. Using this typology, and drawing on the comparative case study of four cities in Mexico and Brazil, the book demonstrates that the level of democratic success is best explained by an approach that accounts for institutional design, structural conditions of mobilization, and the configurations, strategies, behaviors, and perceptions of both state and societal actors. Thus, institutional change alone does not guarantee democratic success: the way these institutional changes are enacted by both political and social actors is even more important as it conditions the potential for an autonomous civil society to emerge and actively engage with the local state in the social construction of an inclusive citizenship. A detailed analyses of the consequences of the conservative attack on progressive government in policy areas such as economics and defence. It offers concrete steps to increase democracy and improve the effectiveness of public action.

From England to Brazil, and Norway to China, Hilary Wainwright sets out on a quest to discover how people are creating new, stronger forms of democracy.

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