

Past, Present, and Future of Direct Democracy

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Date

19.10.2018 H15:00
20.10.2018 H09:30

Location

Roma

Istituto Svizzero

Information

**History, models, and challenges of direct
democracy in the digital era**

Category

Conference

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The digital revolution fundamentally changes the ways governments, political parties, and voters interact with one another. Changing strategies of campaigning and political mobilisation offer citizens new opportunities to engage in political debate and participate in popular votes and elections. Modern information technologies provide novel means of shaping the political discourse, giving previously voiceless masses a way to express opinions and political interest groups immediate access to their target audience. Likewise, electronic tools of government emerge promising a more direct, transparent and efficient interaction between citizens and governmental bodies. These developments have a major impact on the processes of democratic decision-making—on how consensus can be reached and how conflicts are being negotiated.

Technology seems to endorse the direct democratic model, whereas the digitalisation calls into question the participatory processes of representative democracy, prompting a reflection about the history, ideas and institutions linked to direct and representative democracy: do new technologies represent a turning point for the future of democracy?

Programme

19.10.2018 H15:00

Welcome Address

Riccardo Fraccaro, Ministro dei rapporti con il Parlamento e per la democrazia diretta

Giancarlo Kessler, Ambassador of Switzerland in Italy, Malta and San Marino

Joëlle Comé, Director Istituto Svizzero

HISTORY AND IDEAS OF DIRECT DEMOCRACY

Session 1: Competing Models of Democracy

Moderator: Roberta Carlini

15:30 **Giovanni Giorgini** (Università di Bologna), *I problemi della democrazia diretta secondo Platone e Aristotele*

15:50 **Fabrizio Sciacca** (Università di Catania), *Democrazia diretta e democrazia rappresentativa: una distinzione formale o sostanziale?*

16:10 **Paolo Bellini** (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria), *La democrazia rappresentativa e i suoi nemici*

16:30 **Antimo Cesaro** (Università degli Studi della Campania), *Capacità ermeneutica e processi decisionali della democrazia diretta*

16:50 Discussion

17:10 Coffee break

Session 2: Direct Democracy in Past and Present

Moderator: Roberta Carlini

17:40 **Paul Cartledge** (University of Cambridge), *Digital democracy – ancient Greek versus modern Western*

18:00 **Georg Kreis** (University of Basel), *The Invention and Degeneration of Direct Democracy. The Swiss Case*

18:20 **Francis Cheneval** (University of Zurich), *Assessing the Legitimacy of Direct Democracy in the European Union in the Aftermath of Brexit*

18:40 **Alina Scudieri** (Università di Bologna), *Teorizzazioni contemporanee della democrazia diretta negli Stati Uniti: il pensiero di Cass Sunstein*

19:00 Discussion

19:30 Buffet dinner

21:00 Movie screening: *Die göttliche Ordnung*, by **Petra Volpe** (2017, 96 min.)

20.10.2018 H09:30

POLITICAL MOBILIZATION, CAMPAIGNING AND NOVEL INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

09:30 Welcome coffee

Session 3: Political Mobilisation and New Media

Moderator: Philipp Zahn

- 10:00 **Damiano Palano** (Università Cattolica, Milano), *Il pubblico e lo sciame. Verso una "bubble democracy"?*
 10:15 **Giuliana Parotto** (Università degli Studi di Trieste), *Corpo mediale, propaganda e mobilitazione politica*
 10:30 **Nicolas Zahn** (Operation Libero, Zürich), *Updating Direct Democracy*
 10:45 Panel discussion
 11:15 Coffee break

Session 4: E-Government and Citizen Participation

Moderator: Philipp Zahn

- 11:45 **Flavia Marzano** (Assessora Roma semplice, Roma capitale), *Strumenti di Governo e Partecipazione nell'Era Digitale*
 12:00 **Angelo Sturni** (Consigliere di Roma Capitale), *Le riforme in materia di democrazia diretta e partecipata nel nuovo Statuto di Roma Capitale*
 12:15 **Alexander Barclay** (Digital Policy and Innovation, Canton of Geneva), *Citizen participation in a digital era: insights from the canton of Geneva*
 12:30 **Ardita Driza Maurer** (Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau, University of Zurich), *European Legal Standards for E-Voting*
 12:45 Panel discussion

20.10.2018 H15:00

Introduction

Dominique de Buman, President of the Swiss National Council

PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Session 5: Toward Digital Democracy?

Moderator: Dario Nepoti

- 15:30 **Uwe Serdült** (Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau, University of Zurich), *Reconnecting Citizens to Politics*
 15:50 **Fiammetta Ricci** (Università degli Studi di Teramo), *Luoghi e non luoghi di partecipazione politica nell'agorà digitale: simulacri e virtualità delle istituzioni*
 16:10 **Maximilian Stern** (Foraus – Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy, Zurich-Geneva), *Fail Forward: Government in the Digital Democracy*
 16:30 Discussion
 16:45 Coffee break

Session 6: Challenges and Perspectives of Direct Democracy

Moderator: Dario Nepoti

- 17:15 **Natascia Mattucci** (Università di Macerata), *Rivoluzione digitale e immediatezza in politica*
 17:35 **Andreas Gross** (Ex-Consiglio Nazionale svizzero), *Direct Democracy as a way to democratize Democracy: How to realize the democratic potentials of Direct Democracy today*
 17:55 Discussion
 18.10 Final debate with **Bruno Kaufmann** (Presidente, Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy) and **Ingrid Salvatore** (Università degli Studi di Salerno)
 19.00 Buffet dinner

Simultaneous translation available
 Italian/English
 English/Italian

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In collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in Italy



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