

Democracy, Human Rights and Peace: Contested and Reclaimed

Civic Constellation II – Workshop 2
University of Jyväskylä
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Democracy, human rights and peace are all political and contested concepts. In many recent debates, however, they are treated either as commonly shared achievements or uncritically without any understanding of the use of the concepts in the past and what that entails. At the same time, European politics is currently witnessing open resentment towards democratic institutions and fundamental rights, including hostility towards minorities and migrants. Furthermore, concepts such as democracy and human rights are re-invented as with the contemporary emphasis on direct rather than parliamentary participation, or the expansion of security and defense considerations at the expense of peaceful considerations and tools.

The aim of this workshop is to bring analytical distance to the prevailing discussions through theorisation and historicisation of these politicised concepts. The role of scholars is to offer alternative perspectives to current debates. More importantly, in order to see behind such topical slogans as 'post-truth' and 'fake news', it is of paramount importance to analyse the politics behind them: How are such arguments made, by whom and with which theoretical foundations and rhetorical tools? This workshop proposes to do just that by encouraging interdisciplinary scholarly debate.

Keynote speakers:

Elina Pirjatanniemi, Professor of Constitutional and International Law,
Director of the Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University
Gabriella Silvestrini, Associate Professor in History of Political Thought,
Università del Piemonte Orientale, Vercelli

Deadline to submit paper proposals (title and up to 200-word abstract): 15 May 2017

Notification of acceptance: before 31 May 2017

Submission of enlarged abstracts or outlines (ca. 2000 words): 7 August 2017

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Organisers:

Academy of Finland FiDiPro research project *Transformations of Concepts and Institutions in the European Polity* (TRACE), University of Jyväskylä <http://www.jyu.fi/trace>
Kone Foundation research project *Demilitarisation in an increasingly militarised world*, The Åland Islands Peace Institute <http://www.peace.ax/en/research/research-projects>
Civic Constellation II: Debating Democracy and Rights (Spain's National Research Fund, FFI2014-52703-P) <http://www.uma.es/civicconstellation>



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