

The Civic Constellation III

CALL FOR PAPERS

Symposium in Mariehamn, The Åland Islands, Finland

26-27 September 2013

Ideas and Realities of Democracy

An International Workshop of The Civic Constellation Project in cooperation with the Åland Islands Peace Institute

Call for Papers

Democracy is a form of government, i.e. sets of interrelated institutions, but it is also a political ideal, revolving around ideas of citizenship and civic identity, representation, participation, the rule of law and legitimacy. Theories of deliberative democracy have in recent years enhanced understandings about the importance of participation and deliberative processes including through social movements, social media and civil society but their links and relations to representative institutions and bodies of democratic decision-making remains largely unexplored.

While democratic theory is said to emphasise inclusion and legitimacy it has also revealed multiple forms and rhetorics of exclusion and marginalisation affecting various individuals and groups, including women, sexual minorities, immigrants and refugees, ethnic and linguistic minorities.

Such processes take place within a paradox. On the one hand, institutions of representation and/or government continue to expand and get more and more institutionalised, including through means of consultative mechanisms and hearings, advisory expert bodies and new specialised organs on trendy issues. This we see at many levels such as the EU, national governments and parliaments, Nordic cooperation, regional governments and parliaments. On the other hand, phenomena such as increased international conditionality in economic and political matters, voters' turnouts and arguments of mistrust towards politicians question the relevance of democratic institutions.

This is the third international workshop of The Civic Constellation consortium. We invite proposals dealing with the workshop themes and which can be addressed from a number of disciplines and academic traditions of enquiry, from theoretical, historical, methodological and empirical views. Proposals are invited from junior as well as senior researchers. Due to limitations of space and in order to enhance debate the number of participants has been limited to 25.

The language of the workshop shall be English.

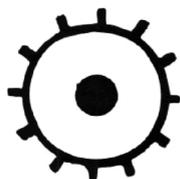
Abstracts: Please send your title and 150-word abstract by email to the convenors by email by **May 5th, 2013**. You shall be notified with a confirmation by June 7th.

Outlines: To prepare the session discussions, extended papers of up to 2000 words should be sent by September 10th to the convenors (sia@peace.ax and sarah@peace.ax) for distribution in advance to all workshop participants. It is the aim of the convenors that a selection of contributions shall be published. Deadline for submission of final texts shall be November 30th 2013 (for publication in 2014).

Convenors: Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark & Sarah Stephan (The Åland Islands Peace Institute), José María Rosales (University of Málaga), Kari Palonen (University of Jyväskylä & Finnish Centre of Political Thought and Conceptual Change)



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The Åland Islands Peace Institute