



**Call for papers: Workshop on “*Navigating Representation in Citizen Participation Formats: A Workshop on Inclusivity and Deliberative Objectives*”**

The chair for political theory at the University of Potsdam is hosting a **workshop on *Navigating Representation in Citizen Participation Formats: A Workshop on Inclusivity and Deliberative Objectives*** place **from September 26<sup>th</sup>** (starting around noon) **to September 27<sup>th</sup>** (until afternoon). The workshop will take place at the Griebnitzsee-Campus of the University in Potsdam/Germany.

Description:

Citizen participation formats, also known as 'democratic innovations,' are deemed crucial for promoting more inclusive and participatory decision-making processes. However, for many of these formats navigating different normative concerns presents a complex challenge. For example, it is understood that achieving general inclusivity does not necessarily result in true representativeness or that embracing a participatory approach does not automatically ensure adequate representation of marginalized or vulnerable groups. Consequently, a central and extensively debated question in the literature pertains to determining what representation should mean in the context of citizen participation formats and who should be represented and why. Additional significant debates revolve around how to adeptly strike a balance between representation and equity, how to address concerns related to epistemic injustice (both between participants and between participants and experts), and how to align the objectives of citizen participation formats.

**1) Inclusivity and Equity in Democratic Innovations**

- The challenges and benefits of ensuring that diverse voices are heard in decision-making processes.
- Discuss strategies to avoid the marginalization of vulnerable actors while maintaining a fair representation.
- Discussing epistemic injustice in the light of representation approaches and objectives of citizen participation
- What other, different approaches exist to stakeholder engagement and their impact on the representation of various groups (e. g. Co-production)
- Questions the role of technology, accessibility, and outreach in enhancing inclusivity.

**2) Connection to Deliberative Objectives**

- How are representation approaches connected with the broader objectives of deliberation and democratic innovations?
- Discuss the relationship between diverse representation and the quality of deliberative objectives, design and practices.
- In how far can citizen participation formats help to overcome epistemic inequalities and lead to fairer and better outcomes?

### **3) Case Studies and Best Practices**

- Learn from real-world examples of democratic innovations successfully navigating representation challenges.
- Identify best practices that contribute inclusive representation and desirable deliberation outcomes.

We welcome abstracts on any of the above aspects and related themes. We hope this workshop is a great opportunity to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on citizen participation and representation. Limited funding for travel might be available depending on further funding.

**Please send abstracts by 15.06.24 to [janina.walkenhorst@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:janina.walkenhorst@uni-potsdam.de) .**

We will let you know by **23.06.24** whether your paper has been accepted.

If you have any questions or would like to get more details, please contact us at the above email address.