



Canada-Europe  
Dialogues on Democracy

# Democracy & its Futures

March 21 and 22, 2019



The University of Victoria (UVic) is home to the project “**Canada-Europe Dialogues on Democracy (CEDoD)**: Democratic deficit and the rise of populism in Europe”. This project is co-funded by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, housed at the Centre for Global Studies, and carried out under the framework of the EU-Canada Network ([www.eucanet.org](http://www.eucanet.org)) at the University of Victoria.

CEDoD (2018-2020) brings together a core group of multidisciplinary researchers at UVic to create a transatlantic scholarly network designed to facilitate a multilogue between civic society actors, academics and policymakers regarding populism and democracy in the European Union (by enticing and steering a discussion). The key objective is the creation of a vibrant research network focused on knowledge dissemination initiatives and engagement strategies targeting scholars, public policy stakeholders and civic society organizations. The principal idea behind the project is to engage Canada-EU experts in a transatlantic dialogue about European integration through the lens of democracy and populism.



# Democracy & its Futures

March 21 and 22, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

The “Democracy & its Futures” event series brought together junior and senior scholars from Canada and Europe discussing issues related to democracy and populism from a comparative, transatlantic perspective. The debates of the two-day event were moderated in a way to consider in particular current issues relevant to policy makers and civic society groups. Based on the passionate networking and debates (both in a workshop format and in a public forum), the “Democracy & its Futures” event series initiated a formal transatlantic research network on the crises of and innovative solutions for democracy that will explore further collaboration and exchange in the future. In addition, the debates of the March 2019 events will constitute the basis for a joint book publication with about 20 contributions on the ‘crisis of democracy’ from a transatlantic perspective.



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# Democracy & its Futures

University of Victoria

## March 21

All sessions in the UVic University Club

**8:30 am**

*Shuttle to UVic*

**9:00 - 10:15 am**      **First session:** Introduction and organise topics to discuss in following sessions.

**10:15 - 10:30 am**      **Health break**

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm**      **Second session**

**12:00-1:30**      *Lunch*

**1:30 - 3:00 pm**      **Third session** with select graduate students' asking questions to participants

**3:00 - 3:15 pm**      **Health break**

**3:15 - 5:00 pm**      **Fourth session** with select graduate students continued

**5:30 pm**

*Return to Delta Hotel*

**7:00 pm Dinner**

*LURE Restaurant & Bar  
Delta Hotel*

## March 22

Morning sessions in the UVic University Club;  
large afternoon session in UVic First Peoples House

**8:30 am**

*Shuttle to UVic*

**9:00 - 10:15 am**      **First session**

**10:15 - 10:30am**      **Health break**

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm**      **Second session:** We will discuss the possibility of coordinating our research in the future.

**12:00-1:30**      *Lunch*

**1:45 - 6:00 pm**      **A PUBLIC DISCUSSION\***  
*at the Ceremonial Hall,  
First Peoples House,  
University of Victoria*

**6:30 pm Dinner**

*Felicita's Campus Pub,  
University of Victoria*



CONTACT: Pablo Ouziel, CEDoD *Project manager* [pouziel@uvic.ca](mailto:pouziel@uvic.ca)

This workshop and public discussion is organized by "Canada-Europe Dialogues on Democracy (CEDoD)", a project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.



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## Guest speakers

### David Held

*Professor of Politics and International Relations, and Master of University College, at Durham University*

### Chantal Mouffe

*Professor of Political Theory, University of Westminster*

### Boaventura de Sousa Santos

*Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Coimbra (Portugal), and Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.*

### David Owen

*Professor of Social and Political Philosophy, University of Southampton*

### Antje Wiener

*Professor of Political Science & Global Governance, Universität Hamburg*

### Jeanne Morefield

*Professor of Politics, Whitman College*

### Robin Celikates

*Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Universiteit van Amsterdam*

### Fonna Forman

*Associate Professor of Political Science/ Director, UCSD Center on Global Justice, UC San Diego*

### Anoush F. Terjanan

*Associate Professor, Department of History, East Carolina University*

### Lasse Thomassen

*Reader, School of Politics and International Relations, Queen Mary, University of London*

### Peymen Vahabzadeh

*Professor, Department of Sociology*

### Val Napoleon

*Associate professor, Law Foundation Professor of Aboriginal Justice and Governance*

### Heidi Stark

*Associate Professor, Political Science*

### James Tully

*Emeritus professor of Political Science and Law*

### Oliver Schmidtke

*Professor of Political Science and Director Centre for Global Studies*

### Pablo Ouziel

*Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science and Centre for Global Studies*

## UVic Speakers

### John Borrows

*Professor, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law*

### Jeremy Webber

*Professor, Faculty of Law*



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MARCH 21, 2019

# Democracy & its Futures

## PRE-SEMINARS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

University of Victoria

In keeping with our focus on the practice, as well as the theory, of democracy, the *Democracy and Its Futures* workshop was shaped from the ground up by an innovative collaboration between invited scholars and local graduate students.

### PRE-SEMINARS

The **CEDoD Grad Student Working Sessions** were organized by the Cedar Tree Institute (CTI) hosted at the Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria. Together, students and scholars engaged in **four pre-seminars designed to generate questions and topics of discussion for the workshop.**

CTI Organizing Team: Rebecca Nelems, *PhD student in Sociology and Cultural, Social, and Political Thought (CSPT), Centre for Global Studies Fellow and Trudeau scholar*; Ryan Beaton, *PhD student in Law and Trudeau scholar*; Keith Cherry, *PhD student in Law and a SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral Scholar*; Rebeca Macias Gimenez, *PhD student in Law and Society, Centre for Global Studies Fellow.*

### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Prior to the public discussion at the University of Victoria's Ceremonial Hall, we had one and a half day of discussions between the invited scholars and the graduate students that attended the workshop. On the morning of March 21st, the invited speakers met to discuss democracy and its futures based on three-page opening statements that were submitted in advance of the event. The format for the conversation was a circular multilogue that was guided by some key issues related to the current state of democracy. In the afternoon of the same day, the speakers were joined by the graduate students who had prepared the session in a series of local roundtable discussion at UVic at which they read key texts by the attending senior scholars. For the 20 graduate students it was an exceptional opportunity to engage with the scholars' work on democracy and to guide the workshop debates. Finally, on the morning of the 22nd, the speakers met again to discuss future collaborations and how to make the newly formed transatlantic network sustainable into the future.



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MARCH 22, 2019

# Democracy & its Futures

PUBLIC EVENT | 1:45 - 6pm

Ceremonial Hall, First Peoples House, University of Victoria

This public event on March 22 was the feature event of a two-day workshop that is part of the project “**Canada Europe Dialogue on Democracy: Democratic deficit and the rise of populism in Europe**”, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

The workshop explored how different families of democracies can address present crises of democratic, social, ecological, and earth systems (Gaia crises). We provisionally described the field of democracy in both theory and practice as consisting of the five overlapping and criss-crossing modes or families of democracies and democratization briefly characterized below.

**Indigenous forms of community-based (and networked) democracies throughout the world of over 600 million Indigenous people:** These comprise the oldest family of democracies on the planet. Indigenous people are regenerating them today through the exercise of their right of self-determination under Indigenous law and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. UVic is a leading centre for the study of these democracies.

**Democracies from below throughout the world:** This family includes the many forms of community-based, cooperative, and networked grass-roots democracies. It also includes community-based democratic practices and campaigns of nonviolent resistance and transformation of unjust social systems. It is swaraj and satyagraha in Gandhi's sense.

**Representative democracies within modern states, broadly conceived:** Representative governments in all their varieties are often seen as the dominant family of democracies and democratization on the planet. They – and the crises they are undergoing – are a major focus of scholarly research.

**Democracy ‘beyond the state’:** We divide this into two subsections: (1) the democratization or failure of democratization (both the ‘deficit’ and ‘disconnect’ problems) of the European Union, global governance, global law, international relations, and so on; and (2) the ways in which citizens engage in democratic practices of contestation and interaction with supra or transnational institutions of various kinds.

**Gaia democracy:** The ecological crises of the Anthropocene (i.e. our current era in which human activities are a primary driver of environmental change) highlight this fifth family of democracies. Homo sapiens and our social, political, cultural, economic systems are interdependent members of symbiotic ecological systems that have sustained and complexified life for over 3.8 billion years. These life systems are symbiotic and cyclical in the ‘virtuous’ or ‘co-operative’ sense that they reciprocally sustain themselves. Homo sapiens are thus ‘plain members and citizens’ of Gaia democracy with responsibilities to care for and sustain the life systems that sustain them. How do the members of the other four families of democracies cognize Gaia democracies and respond to the Gaia crises? And how do Gaia democracies engage with other families of democracies?

The relationships between these families of democracies are not well understood because our disciplinary and everyday ways of perceiving and thinking tend to focus on each family in isolation. By disclosing and discussing overlapping relationships among these families of democracies and the larger social systems in which they are embedded, we worked towards finding new ways for these families to coordinate and cooperate in transforming the local and global systemic causes of the Gaia crises we all face together.







March 22, 2019 | 1:45 - 6 pm

# Democracy & its Futures

Ceremonial Hall, First Peoples House, University of Victoria



Introduction by Tsartlip Elder, May Sam

What are the major problems facing democracies?  
What are the connections between these problems?  
What are the democratic ways to resolve these problems  
and reconcile all affected by them?

**Chantal Mouffe** *University of Westminster*  
**David Owen** *University of Southampton*  
**Antje Wiener** *Universität Hamburg*  
**Jeanne Morefield** *University of Birmingham (Incoming)*  
**Robin Celikates** *Universität van Amsterdam*  
**Karuna Mantena** *Yale University (TBC)*  
**Fonna Forman** *UC San Diego*  
**Lasse Thomassen** *Queen Mary, University of London*  
**Anoush F. Terjanian** *University of Ottawa*  
**Joshua Nichols** *University of Alberta*

**Johnny Mack** *University of British Columbia*  
**Val Napoleon** *University of Victoria*  
**John Borrows** *University of Victoria*  
**Jeremy Webber** *University of Victoria (TBC)*  
**Peyman Vahabzadeh** *University of Victoria*  
**Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark** *University of Victoria*  
**James Tully** *University of Victoria*  
**Oliver Schmidtke** *University of Victoria*  
**Pablo Ouziel** *University of Victoria*







# Democracy & its Futures | Organizing Team

## Oliver Schmidtke

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Director of Centre for Global Studies*

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Pierre Elliott Trudeau Scholar*

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*PhD candidate in Law and a SSHRC Joseph-Armand  
Bombardier Doctoral Scholar*

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