

Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance

END OF YEAR REPORT 2020



CENTRE FOR
**DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY
AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA

The Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance is the world-leading centre for the study of deliberative democratic theory and practice. It is based in the Faculty of Business, Government and Law at the University of Canberra.

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The Year in Review



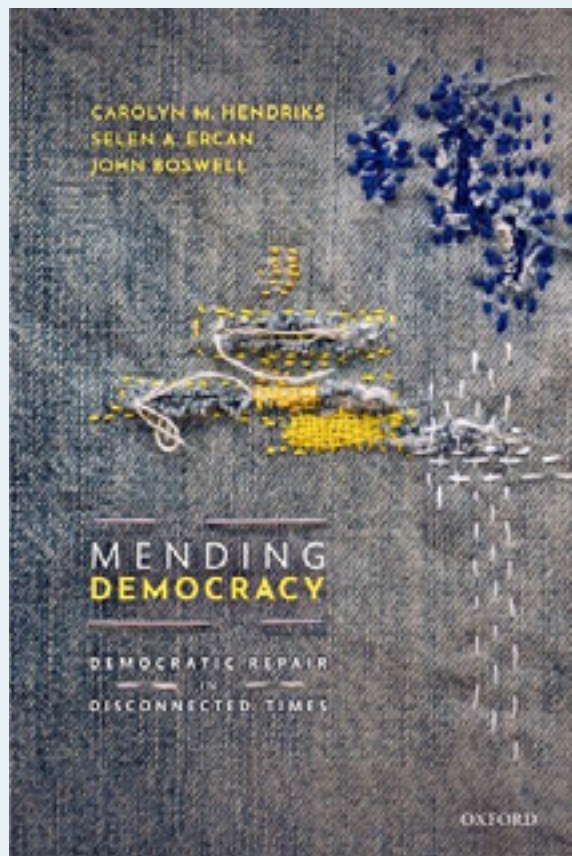
Isolated while remaining connected.

This year's annual report tells the story of how our Centre navigated a challenging year, while maintaining our ethos of mutual support, encouragement, and research excellence.

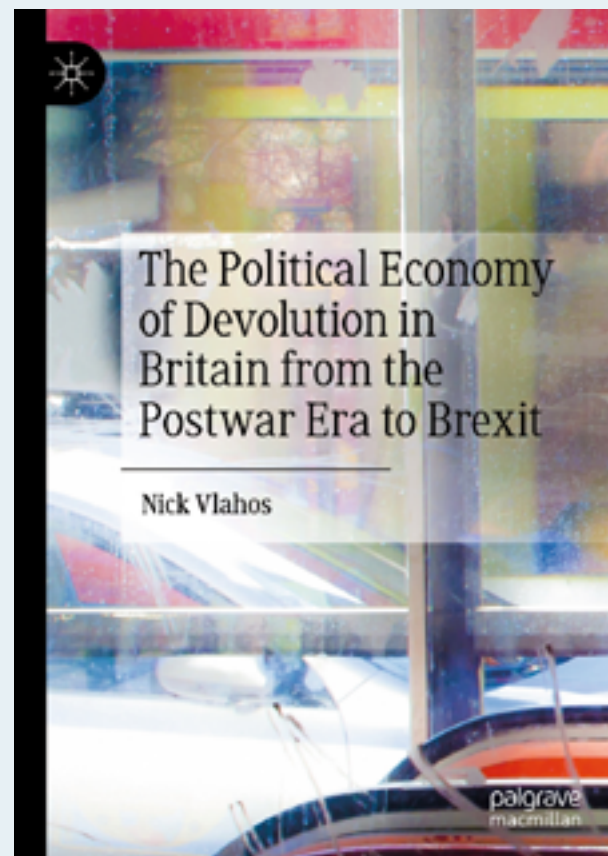
Publications

Our publications this year showcase the breadth of our Centre's fields of expertise including democratic theory, interpretive policy analysis, political economy, area studies and environmental politics.

Books



Hendriks, Carolyn, **Ercan, Selen A.** and Boswell, John. (2020) *Mending Democracy: Democratic Repair in Disconnected Times*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.



Vlahos, Nick (2020) *The Political Economy of Devolution in Britain from the Postwar Era to Brexit*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.



Our Centre is proud to be the home of the *Journal of Deliberative Democracy*. The journal published two issues this year, featuring back-to-back special issues on the Frontiers of Deliberative Democracy (Volume 17, Issue 1) and Democracy without Shortcuts (Volume 17, Issue 2) with authors including Jürgen Habermas, Jane Mansbridge and our associates William Smith, Tetsuki Tamura and Julien Vrygdagh.

The Journal is a collaboration with our very own Nicole Curato and Kim Strandberg (Åbo Akademi University), André Bächtiger (University of Stuttgart) and Graham Smith (University of Westminster).

Journal Articles

1. Afsahi, Afsoun, Beausoleil, Emily, Dean, Rikki, **Ercan, Selen A.** and Gagnon, Jean Paul (2020) Democracy in a Global Emergency. Five Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Democratic Theory* 7(2): v-xix.
2. **Alnemr, Nardine**, Choucair, Thais and **Curato, Nicole** (2020) Can the poor exercise deliberative agency in a multimedia saturated society? Lessons from Brazil and Lebanon, *Political Research Exchange*.
3. **Alnemr, Nardine** (2020) Emancipation cannot be programmed: blind spots of algorithmic facilitation in online deliberation, *Contemporary Politics* 26(5): 531-552.
4. **Asenbaum, Hans** (2020) The Politics of Becoming: Disidentification as Radical Democratic Practice, *European Journal of Social Theory* [Online first]
5. **Asenbaum, Hans** (2020) Making a Difference: Toward a Feminist Democratic Theory in the Digital Age, *Politics & Gender* 16(1): 230-257.
6. **Curato, Nicole**, Sass, Jensen, **Ercan, Selen A.** and **Niemeyer, Simon** (2020) Deliberative democracy in the age of serial crisis, *International Political Science Review* [Online first]
7. **Curato, Nicole** (2020) Assessing the poor's deliberative agency in media-saturated societies. *Theory and Society*. [Online first]



Credit the image to: Alice Mollon

This is the second year running in which our Centre has led (or co-led) an article in *Science*, one of the world's top two general scientific journals.

8. **Curato, Nicole** (2020) Interruptive Protests in Dysfunctional Deliberative Systems. *Politics*. [Online first]
9. **Curato, Nicole**, Vrydagh, Julien and Bächtiger, André (2020) Democracy without Shortcuts: Introduction to the Special Issue. *Journal of Deliberative Democracy* 16(1): 1-9.
10. **Curato, Nicole**, Bächtiger, André, Smith, Graham and Strandberg, Kim (2020) Introducing the Journal of Deliberative Democracy. *Journal of Deliberative Democracy* 16(1): 1-3.
11. **Curato, Nicole** and Fossati, Diego (2020) Authoritarian Innovations. *Democratization* 27(6): 1006-1020.
12. **Dryzek, John S.**, Dianne Nicol, **Simon Niemeyer**, Sonya Pemberton, **Nicole Curato**, André Bächtiger, Philip Batterham, Bjørn Bedsted, Simon Burall, Michael Burgess, Gaetan Burgio, Yuriy Castelfranchi, Hervé Chneiweiss, George Church, Merlin Crossley, Jantina de Vries, Mahmud Farooque, Marit Hammond, Baogang He, Ricardo Mendonça, Jennifer Merchant, Anna Middleton, John E. J. Rasko, Ine Van Hoyweghen, and Antoine Vergne (2020) Global Citizen Deliberation on Genome Editing, *Science* 369: 1435-37.

13. **Ercan, Selen A.**, Durnová, Anna, Loeber, Anne and Wagenaar, Hendrik (2020) Symposium: Revising the Three Pillars of Deliberative Policy, *Policy Studies* 41(4): 307-30.
14. Hammond, Marit, **Dryzek, John S.** and Pickering, Jonathan (2020) Critical Exchange: Democracy in the Anthropocene, *Contemporary Political Theory* 19: 127-41.
15. Pitt, Jeremy, **Dryzek, John** and Ober, Josiah (2020) Algorithmic Reflexive Governance for Socio-Techno-Ecological Systems, *IEEE Technology and Society* 39(2): 52-59.
16. Lamchek, Jayson S. and **Sanchez, Emerson M.** (2020) Friends and Foes: Human Rights, the Philippine Left and Duterte, 2016-2017, *Asian Studies Review*. [Online first]
17. Mendonça, Ricardo F., **Ercan, Selen A.** and **Asenbaum, Hans** (2020) More than Words: A Multidimensional Approach to Deliberative Democracy, *Political Studies* [Online first]
18. Parry, Lucy; **Asenbaum, Hans**; **Ercan, Selen A.** (2020) Democracy in Flux: A Systemic View on the Impact of COVID-19, *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy* [Online first].
19. Romero, Javier and **Dryzek, John S.** (2020) Grounding Ecological Democracy: Semiotics and the Communicative Networks of Nature. *Environmental Values*. [Online first]
20. Tanasoca, Ana and **Dryzek, John S.** (2020) Democratic Altruism. *International Theory*. [Online first]

Book Chapters

1. Combinido, Pamela and **Curato, Nicole** (2020) 'Curing Patient Zero: Reclaiming Digital Public Sphere in the Philippines,' in *From Grassroots Activism to Disinformation: Social Media in Southeast Asia*, A. Sinpeng and R. Tapsell (eds). Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. Chapter 2.
2. **Niemeyer, Simon** (2020). Analysing deliberative transformation: a multi-level approach incorporating Q methodology. *Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*. S. Elstub and O. Escobar, Edward Elgar: 540-557.
3. **Niemeyer, Simon.** (2020). Knowledge and the deliberative stance in democratic systems: Harnessing scepticism of the self in governing global environmental change *Knowledge for Governance*. J. Glückler, G. Herrigel and M. Handke. Berlin: Springer.
4. Parry, Lucy J., **Alver, Jane** and Thompson, Nivek (2020) Democratic Innovations in Australasia. *Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*. S. Elstub and O. Escobar, Edward Elgar

Report

1. **Curato, Nicole** (2020) 'The Philippines' in *Populism and the pandemic: A collaborative report*, G. Katsambekis and Y. Stavrakakis (eds.) Loughborough University. pp. 37-39.

The Deliberative Democracy Summer School

In between catastrophic bushfires and a global pandemic was the miraculous in-person Deliberative Democracy Summer School.

The Fourth Deliberative Democracy Summer School brought together an international group of PhD students and leading scholars on deliberative democracy. The three-day event was designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas about the latest developments in the field, provided feedback on work-in-progress papers of PhD students, and built a global network of deliberative democracy scholars.

The summer school was the flagship programme of the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra. The aim was to hold it every eighteen months, shuttling between Canberra and Europe. In 2018, the

summer school was co-hosted by Åbo Akademi University and the University of Turku in Finland.

Guest speakers in this year's summer school included Hans Asenbaum (Potsdam University), André Bächtiger (University of Stuttgart), Dannica Fleuß (Helmut-Schmidt-University), Cristina Lafont (Northwestern University), Marina Lindell (Åbo Akademi University), Kei Nishiyama (Doshisha University), PerOla Öberg (Uppsala University), John Rountree (University of Houston-Downtown), Jane Suiter (Dublin City University), and Mark E. Warren (University of British Columbia)

This year's summer school was made possible by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation's strategic funds and the Faculty of Business, Government, and Law, the Australian Research Council, and the Journal of Deliberative Democracy.



Connecting to Parliament



Connecting to Parliament aims to understand how elected officials integrate constituent feedback from deliberative town halls into their representational activities. The project extends the innovative research design developed by researchers the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability, Ohio State University as part of their 'Connecting to Congress' project.

Last September our Centre organised one face-to-face and one online townhall with the Federal MP, Andrew Leigh on the issue of mitochondrial donation.

Visit: <https://connect2parliament.com/>

Academic Events



Book Harvest 2020

Bolt Bar, Aranda

The Book Harvest is our Centre's way of collectively celebrating the publication of new books by our staff members. This year, we celebrated the publication of eight books in the past two years. We thank our dearest friends and colleagues for celebrating with us, especially to Pierrick Chalaye and JP Gagnon for their mad hosting skills and to the wonderful Wendy Conway-Lamb for composing the summer school soundtrack.

Meta-study workshop

University of Canberra

This workshop aimed to update co-investigators of the status of the project, get feedback on work-in-progress papers related to the project, and discussed the next phase of the project and future grant applications.

Designing a deliberative event on Water Policy

University of Canberra

An independent national policy Centre is being formed, backed by philanthropic contributions, that will adopt deliberative approaches to engage community and stakeholders to inform decision making in the critical and increasingly difficult water policy arena. A pilot project is being developed for 2021, with the likely case being water management in the Goulburn River in Victoria, where a deadlock is preventing environmental water holders from reconnecting rivers to the floodplain.

The event brought together a wide variety of stakeholders to consider the merits of a deliberative approach to an historically difficult policy area. Following a presentation on the issues, a panel addressed issues around merit of approach, challenges for design, which was followed by discussion and input from the audience.



Grants

Our Centre is now home to three brand new Australian Research Council Grants plus research projects with old and new collaborators.

Australian Research Council Grants



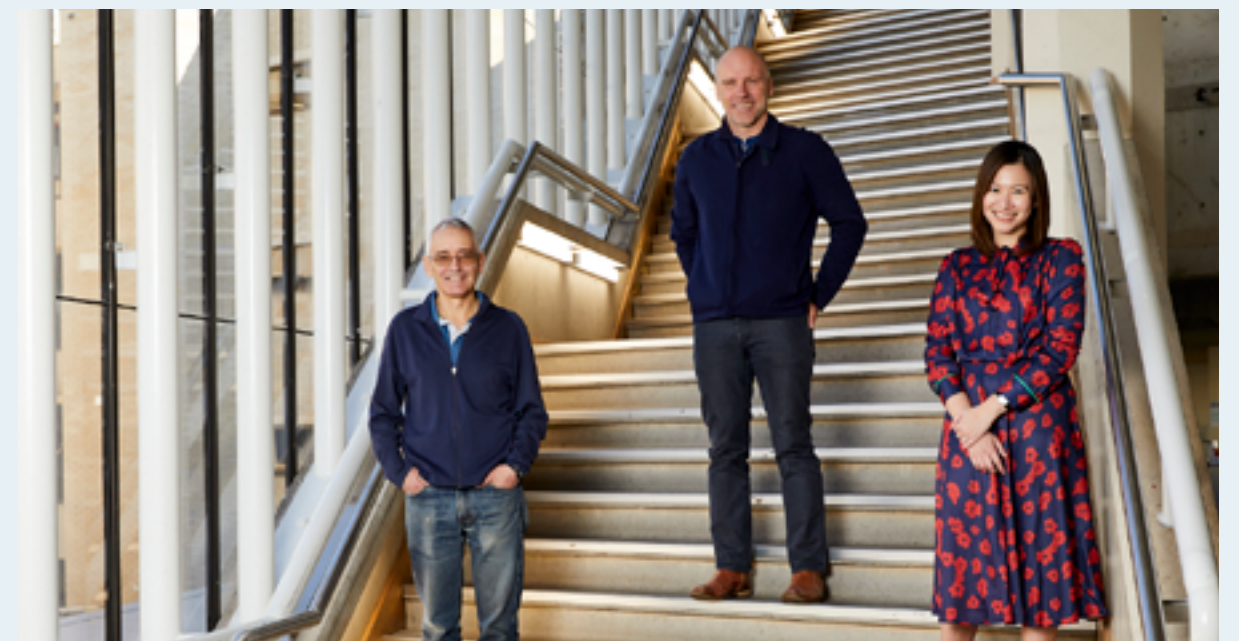
Democratic Resilience: The Public Sphere and Extremist Attacks
Discovery Project

John Dryzek, Selen Ercan, Jensen Sass, and Peter Balint
\$511,000



Monitoring Deliberative Integrity in Australia
Special Research Initiative

Nicole Curato, John Dryzek, Selen Ercan,
Simon Niemeyer and Nick Vlahos
\$202,156



Global Citizen Deliberation: Analysing a Deliberative Documentary
Linkage Project

John Dryzek, Simon Niemeyer, Nicole Curato, Dianne Nicol, Sonya Pemberton and Anotine Vergne
\$439,000

New collaborations

Genome Editing: Formulating an Australian Community Response

John Dryzek, Simon Niemeyer and Nicole Curato join forces with Dianne Nicol from the University of Tasmania to conduct a national citizens' jury on genome editing. This project is the first building block of the Global Citizens' Assembly on Genome Editing.

Funded by the Medical Research Future Fund Genomics Health Futures Mission (\$472,107 via University of Tasmania)

Identity, Ideology and Representation: A Comparative Study of Elites and Masses in Southeast Asia

Nicole Curato joins some of the world's leading scholars on Southeast Asian Studies to conduct a regional survey on the quality of representation in a region notorious for authoritarian innovations.

Funded by the Singapore Ministry of Education Tier 2 Grant. (\$935,000 via National University of Singapore)

Deliberative Democracy in the face of democratic crisis: contributions, dilemmas and ways forward

Selen Ercan teams up once again with our associate Ricardo F. Mendonça to investigate the context of democratic crisis from a perspective of deliberative democracy. The project seeks to specify the challenges contemporary democracies face and advance the ways deliberative perspective can help address these challenges.

Funded by the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (\$15,800 via University of Minas Gerais)

What citizens want from deliberative forms of participation: mapping legitimacy perceptions with an online survey and a preference experiment

To date the use of deliberative minipublics has been largely driven by the dictates of democratic theorists, practitioners and policy makers. This project embarks on a much needed "metadeliberation" about how the public sees their role in deliberative systems and how this thinking evolves. Simon Niemeyer teams up with longstanding associates of the Centre to explore this important question.

Funded by the German Research Council (via University of Stuttgart).

Expert government agencies' contribution to public deliberation: balancing the need for expertise with political equality

Simon Niemeyer is revisiting his Swedish connections on a new project that bridges public deliberation, policy making and the role of scientific expertise in deliberative systems in a comparative study between Australian and Swedish politics and policy making. The designated topic when the project was written is COVID, although practicality may require integration with Simon's existing research portfolio (climate change or genomic technologies).

Funded by Riksbanken (\$906, via University of Uppsala)

Postdoc Mobility Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation

Our postdoctoral research fellow Francesco Veri obtained the Postdoc Mobility Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation. The two-year project is entitled 'Assessing deliberation in the real world: the first systematic comparative study of the deliberative practices.' It aims to develop a timely and cutting-edge understanding of the practice of political deliberation on a global scale by analysing and synthesising the results from deliberative democratic practices in the last decade. The Centre will host Francesco's new fellowship.



Prizes

Our Centre is honoured to be recognised for our research excellence this year.

Nicole Curato is this year's recipient of the prestigious Virginia Miralao Excellence in Research Prize awarded by the Philippine Social Sciences Council for her book *Democracy in a Time of Misery: From Spectacular Tragedy to Deliberative Action* (2019, Oxford University Press).



Selen Ercan, Carolyn Hendriks and John Dryzek's article 'Public Deliberation in an Era of Communicative Plenty' received this year's Ken Young Prize from the journal *Policy and Politics*. This is the second time Selen won this prize.

John Dryzek's *The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses* was named in *The Australian Higher Education Magazine* as one of the top ten academic books by an Australian author published in the previous decade.

Our Centre is proud to receive two of the Executive Dean's Excellence Award this year. Congratulations to Selen Ercan for her research excellence prize and Nicole Curato for excellence in research, engagement and impact. John Dryzek also received the Vice Chancellor prize for research excellence.



Seminar Series

We shifted our decade-long tradition of Tuesday morning tea online, experimented in hybrid format seminars, met new colleagues, and reconnected with old friends from around the world.

January 28

Julien Vrydagh, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Belgium: The rise of institutionalized mini-publics

February 4

David Turton, Australian National University
Neighbourly compensations: lawyers, parliamentary submissions and coal seam gas

February 4

Lala Muradova, University of Leuven
The norm-diffusing potential of minipublics

February 18

Alexander Geisler, University of Geneva
Representing the disadvantaged? Conceptions of representation in a Citizens' Jury in Switzerland

February 25

Dannica Fleuss, Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg
Democratic proceduralism and its limits: from philosophical principles to political institutions



Crakenback Seminar Series?

Before the pandemic, our Centre sent a team to investigate the prospect of hosting an annual seminar at Crakenback – a beautiful range at the outskirts of the Thredbo River Valley in New South Wales. Thank you to Alexander Geisler for presenting in what could be our inaugural seminar series!



Seminar Series available online!

Most of our seminars are available in our Centre's YouTube Channel. Check it out [here](#).

Seminar Series

March 3

Stacy Carter, Annette Braunack-Mayer and Chris Degeling, University of Wollongong
Australian Centre for Health Engagement, Evidence and Values

April 28

Caroline W Lee, Lafayette College
Deliberation, Inc.? The professionalization of public engagement in 2020

May 5

John Rountree, University of Houston-Downtown
Judging technical claims in democratic deliberation: a rhetorical analysis of two Citizens' Initiative Review panels in Oregon

May 12

Kerry McCallum, University of Canberra
Mediating the national conversation: journalism and the child abuse Royal Commission 2013-17

May 26

Filipe Motta, Federal University of Minas Gerais
The constraints on public debate about mining in Minas Gerais, Brazil

June 2

John Gastil and Katherine R Knobloch, Penn State University / Colorado State University
Hope for Democracy

June 9

Daniele Caramani, University of Zurich
People haven't had enough of expert: technocratic attitudes among citizens in nine European countries

June 16

Alexandra Oprea, Australian National University
Defending education: a democratic role for Courts in education policy

July 14

Linda Botterill, University of Canberra
Policy making and democratic responsiveness: the explanatory potential of values

July 21

Timothy J Shaffer, Kansas State University
Deliberative andragogy: the role of education in deliberative democracy

July 28

Francesco Veri, University of Canberra
A Multi-level cluster analysis of young scholars' studies in Deliberative Democracy

August 4

Erika Blacksher and Justin Reedy, University of Washington / University of Oklahoma
Deliberations with American Indian and Alaska native communities about genomics

August 11

Madeleine Egan, University of Canberra
Can constitutions be popular? Making space for mass democracy in deliberative constitutionalism

August 18

Robert Talisse, Vanderbilt University
Overdoing Democracy: the problem of political polarization

September 8

Nick Vlahos, University of Canberra
Triaging and the deliberative system in Toronto

September 15

William Smith, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Deliberation in an age of (un)civil resistance

October 20

Preeti Raghunath, Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication (SIMC)
Deliberation and Media policy studies: towards a deliberative policy ecology approach

October 27

Emmanuel Ifeanyi Ani, University of Ghana
What exactly is voting to consensual deliberation?

November 10

Helen Christensen, University of Technology Sydney
Australian participatory and deliberative practitioners - what we're learning

November 17

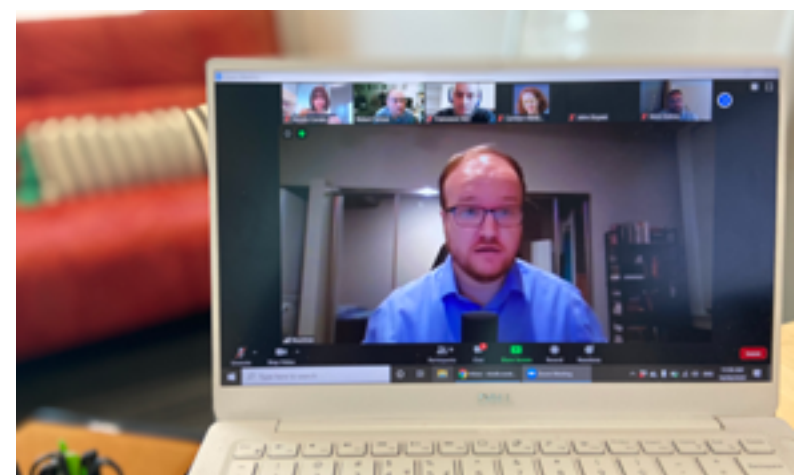
Hemant R Ojha, University of Canberra
Co-producing deliberative space: reflections from city level water forum initiatives in India and Nepal

November 24 and December 2

Simon Niemeyer and Francesco Veri, University of Canberra
How can we improve deliberative reasons? A meta-analysis of minipublic deliberation

December 1

Jane Alver, University of Canberra
Negotiating sisterhood in the Pacific Region: feminist alliances across diversity



Visitors

Before the international travel ban, our Centre was home to amazing scholars who travelled all the way from Europe, Brazil, and Canada to hang out with us.



Hans Asenbaum
Potsdam University



André Bächtiger
University of Stuttgart



Thais Choucair
Federal University of Minas Gerais



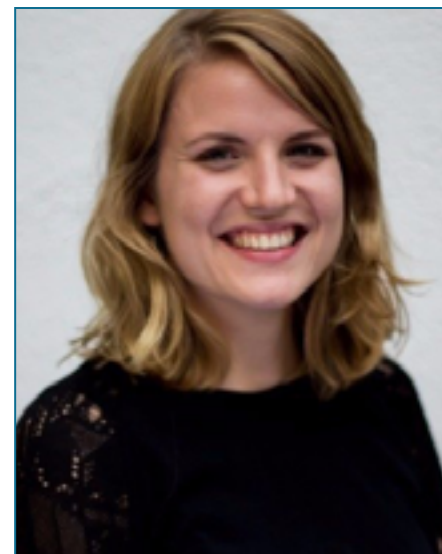
Dannica Fleuß
Helmut-Schmidt-University



Alexander Geisler
University of Geneva



Marina Lindell
Åbo Akademi University



Franziska Maier
University of Stuttgart



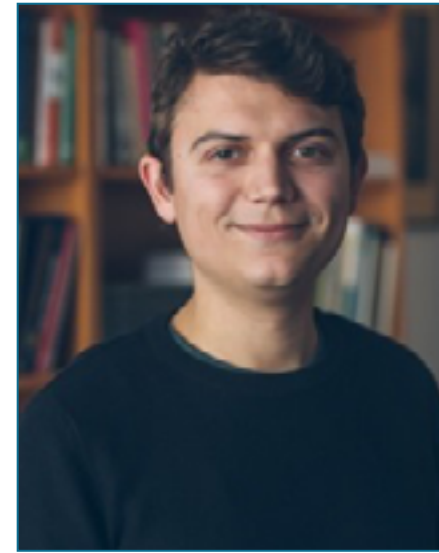
Filipe Motta
Federal University of Minas Gerais



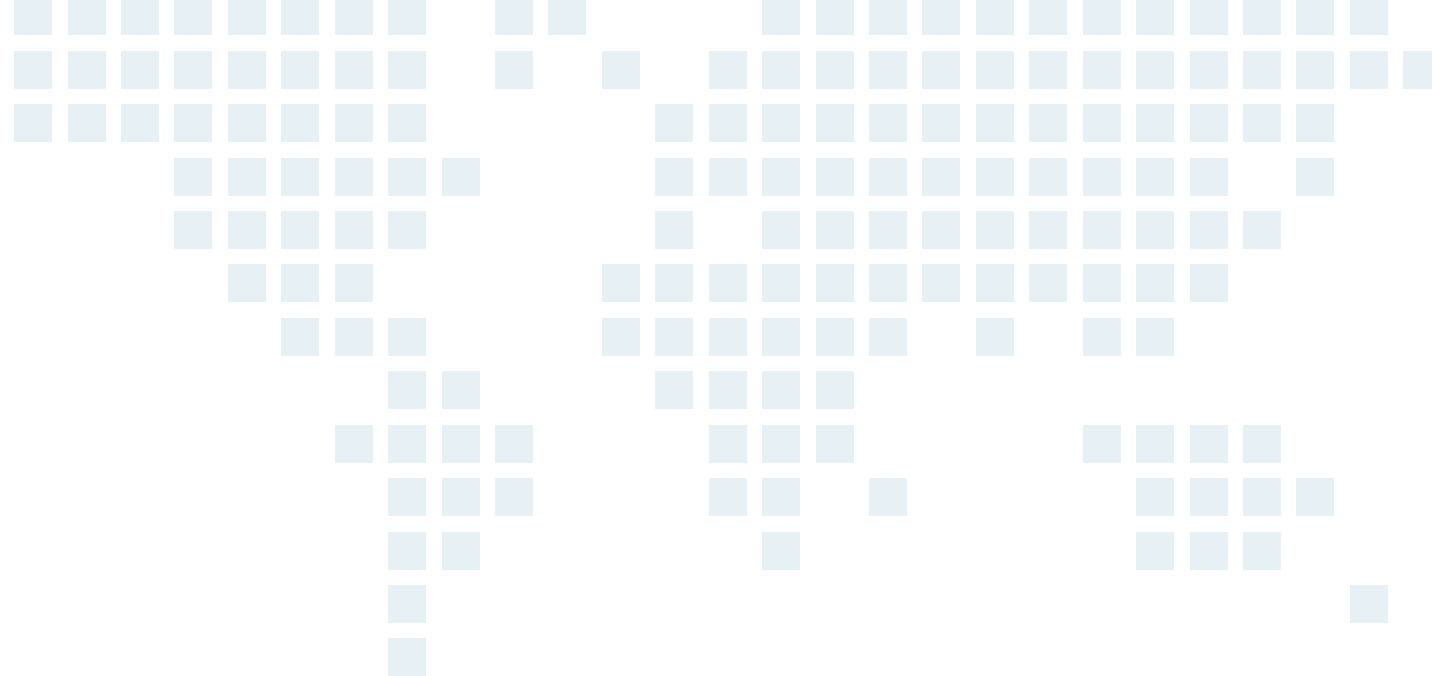
Lala Muradova
University of Leuven



Darielle Talarico
University of British Columbia



Julien Vrydagh
Vrije Universiteit Brussel



VISITORS' TESTIMONIALS

The Great Canberra Bakeoff

Baking skills are desirable but not required for our visiting PhD students.

Filipe Motta

The Centre is a unique place in the world to welcome researchers interested in deliberative research. Everyone always has a new contribution to offer you. And there is a huge circulation of people coming from everywhere with new ideas to share. At the same time as there is a permanent concern for the quality of research, there is always a movement in search of new perspectives on politics that can build effective democratic transformations. Recognizing that these two things must go together. I keep with great affection the months I spent there.



Lala Muradova

My 2020 had an amazing start at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, as a visiting researcher. The Centre provides an intellectually rich environment for the researchers interested in deliberative democracy, and deliberation; and for me it has definitely been one of the highlights of my PhD years.

My stay at the centre helped me to improve my ideas for my PhD thesis and learn from the best in the field. Combining regular seminars, the deliberative democracy summer school and the workshops with informal encounters over coffees, breakfasts, dinners and drinks with the scholars of the Centre provided a truly rich environment for me to learn and have fun at the same time. I would do it again and again in a heartbeat. Grateful to the incredibly smart and down-to-earth scholars for their time, dedication and incredible support!



Conference, workshops, and webinars

We are part of global (mostly virtual) conversations on a range of topics – from deliberative democracy to Pacific feminism to the role of robots in democratic life.

Australia

Mohammad Abdul-Hwas

Australian Political Studies Association
Postgraduate Workshop

Mohammad Abdul-Hwas

Nardine Alnemr

Jane Alver

Wendy Conway-Lamb

Pierrick Chalaye

Emerson Sanchez

Presenters
Deliberative Democracy Summer School
University of Canberra

Jane Alver

Presenter
Beijing Platform for Action at 25: Progress, Retreat and the Future of Women's

Rights conference

University of Melbourne and UNSW

Jane Alver

Speaker
She Leads Diploma of Leadership and Management

Jane Alver

Presenter
Biennial Oceanic Conference on International Studies
Australian National University

Nicole Curato

Panellist
Trump in Asia
La Trobe Asia Webinar

Nicole Curato

In conversation with Barry Jones
Canberra Writers Festival

John Dryzek

Speaker
Threatened Species Scientific Committee of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Conference, workshops, and webinars

North America

Nicole Curato
Presenter
Democracy in Asia
Roundtable
The Brookings Institution

Nicole Curato
Guest Lecture
University of Berkeley
Southeast Asia Studies

Selen Ercan
Co-author
Annual Conference of
the American Political
Science Association

Nick Vlahos
Presenter
Canadian Political
Science Association
Annual Conference

Nick Vlahos
Panellist
Democracy is in the Eye
of the Beholder Workshop
Canadian Political
Science Association
Annual Conference

South America

Nardine Alnemr
Hans Asenbaum
Presenter
National Institute for
Science and Technology
for Digital Democracy
International Conference

Asia

Nicole Curato
Presenter
Structures of Mutual
Support webinar
Metropolitan Museum
of Manila

Nicole Curato
Keynote Speaker
Philippine Sociological
Society Annual Conference

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Active Vista Human
Rights Festival

Nicole Curato
Panellist
The National Amnesia:
Remembering and Forgetting
Ateneo de Manila University
Press Book Fair

Europe

Nardine Alnemr
Hans Asenbaum
John Dryzek
Presenters
ECPR General Conference

Hans Asenbaum
Presenter
Seminar of the Research
Group on Democracy
& Digitalization
Weizenbaum Institute

Nicole Curato
Panellist
Digital Global
Solutions Summit

Selen Ercan
Co-author
ECPR General Conference

John Dryzek
Speaker
Oxford Philosophy, Politics,
and Economics Society

Nardine Alnemr
Presenter
Robophilosophy 2020:
Culturally sustainable
social robotics
Aarhus University

Hans Asenbaum
Nicole Curato
Panellists
DemocracyNet
Annual Workshop
University of Zurich

Hans Asenbaum
Presenter
PSA Participatory and
Deliberative Democracy
Specialist Group
Webinar Series

Nicole Curato
Presenter
Book Launch of Democracy
in a Time of Misery
King's College London

John Dryzek
Keynote Speaker
UK Political Studies
Association, Environmental
Politics Specialist Group

Hans Asenbaum
Presenter
Webinar Series of the PSA
Participatory and Deliberative
Democracy Specialist Group

Nicole Curato
Presenter
The Conservative
Backlash as Challenge
for Social Sciences
and the Humanities
Free University Berlin

John Dryzek
Participant
*Climate Justice, Protest,
and Democracy*
Commons Research Centre,
University of Copenhagen



Partnerships and Linkages

Global Citizens' Assembly Consortium

The consortium to organise a deliberative global citizens' assembly on genome editing continues to gather momentum. Our partners include Missions Publiques (France and Germany), Involve (UK), Genepool Productions (Melbourne), and the University of Tasmania Centre for Law and Genetics. Partners involved in developing national deliberative processes on the same issue include researchers at Welcome Genome Campus (UK), Keele University (UK), Deakin University, Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, KU Leuven (Belgium), University of Cape Town (South Africa), Arizona State University (USA), University of British Columbia (Canada).

Our Centre is also one of the founding partners of the Global Citizens' Assembly in connection with the 26th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Democracy R&D

Our Centre is proud to be part of Democracy R&D – a global consortium of advocates, scholars, and practitioners of deliberative democracy. Our Centre is represented by Nick Vlahos, Nardine Alnemr and Nicole Curato in their activities.

Political Studies Association UK

A strong connection to the PSA Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group (PDD) has been established this year, as Hans Asenbaum, a long standing PDD co-convenor joined the Centre. With 350 members, PDD is a vibrant network of scholars of deliberative democracy. The connection to PDD allows the Centre to deepen its contacts and collaborative projects with leading scholars in the UK.

The PDD convenor team has put all its effort into supporting and engaging the scholarly community in these challenging times. Among the highlights were a six-part summer webinar series that showcased the current work of PDD members and a picture contest for Early Career Researchers.

European Consortium for Political Research's Standing Group on Democratic Innovation

The Secretariat of the ECPR's Standing Group on Democratic Innovations has moved to Canberra! As co-chair of one of the ECPR's largest standing groups, Nicole Curato is collaborating with Nardine Alnemr, the SG's new digital communications manager, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information about the latest developments in democratic innovations.



Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA) at The Ohio State University

Our Connecting to Parliament project is made possible by our new collaboration with IDEA. Through Professor Michael Neblo and his amazing team of researchers, our Centre was able to design and implement the Australian version of *Connecting to Congress* which aims to create authentic and actionable engagement between representatives and their constituents.

Brazilian National Science and Technology Institute for Digital Democracy

The Centre continues to collaborate with the Brazilian National Science and Technology Institute for Digital Democracy, which is multi-institutional and multidisciplinary network of research groups and laboratories from all over the world focusing on the use of digital tools to enhance democracy. We continue our joint research activities with through our associate Ricardo Fabrino Mendonça (Federal University of Minas Gerais). This year, Nardine Alnemr and Hans Asenbaum presented their work on digital democracy in the Institute's virtual conference.

Participedia

This year, our associate Lucy J. Parry has continued her work with the Participedia project. Early in the year, Participedia began to document participatory responses to the COVID-19 pandemics, captured in two collections on the site. Lucy has worked with a range of collaborators and partners worldwide to create and curate new cases for the database, including [The Coady Institute](#) and the [Institute for Development Studies](#).

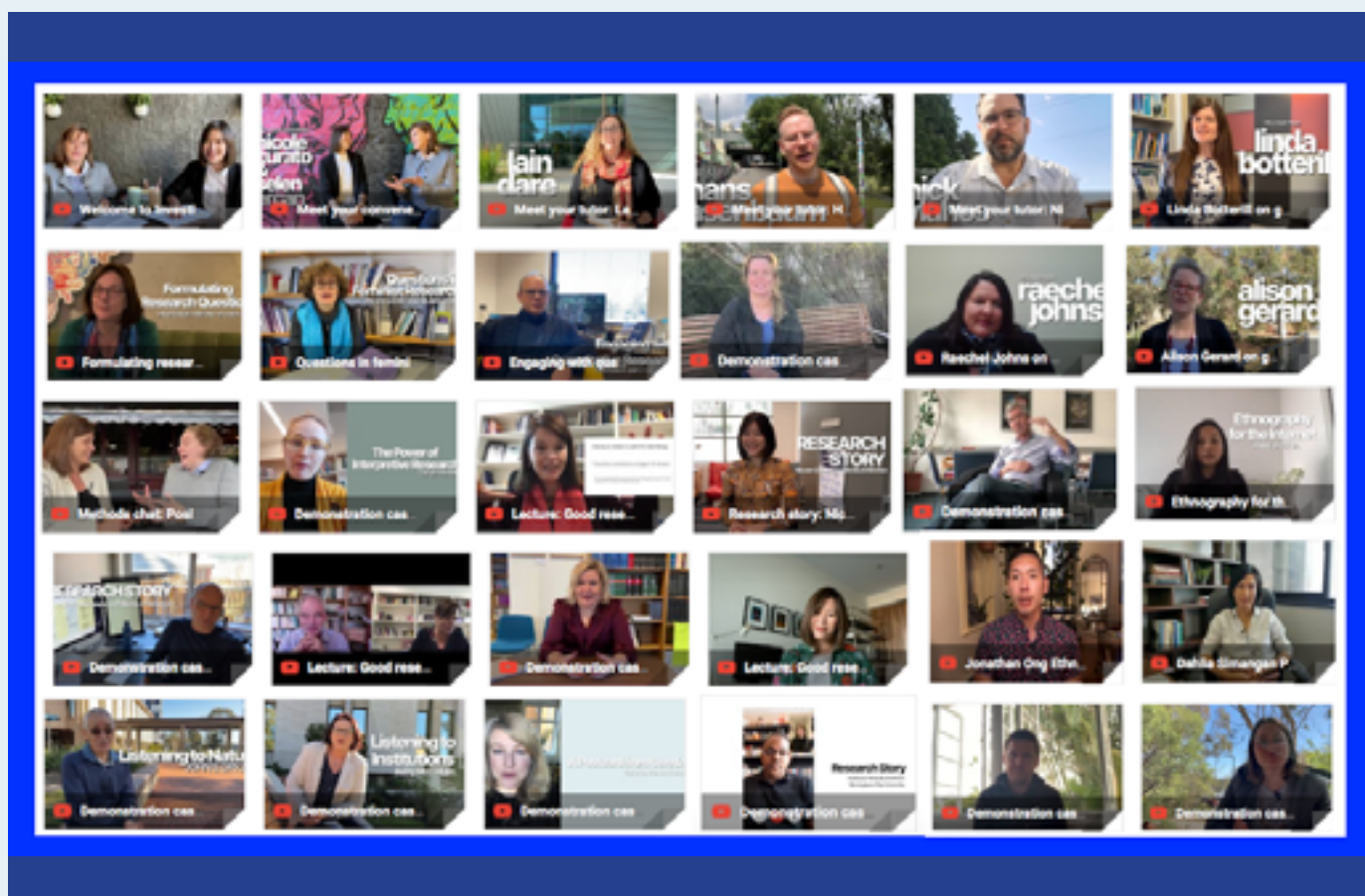
Lucy has continued her ongoing research with Selen into how Participedia can be used for qualitative research, interviewing the organisers of citizens' juries in South Australia in order to understand the insights that can (and cannot) be gained from Participedia data on impact. This research is in the process of being written up and will soon be submitted for publication.

Starting in the summer, the whole Participedia team met on Zoom for the collaborative creation of their application to the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, under the leadership of Professor Bonny Ibhawoh who will lead the next phase of Participedia. Several of the Centre's members are named as collaborators and co-applicants on this application including Nick, Hans, and Francesco, and Selen as the chair of the participatory governance research cluster.

PARTICIPEDIA

Teaching

Our Centre put together our A team to teach undergraduate students at the University of Canberra.



Investigating and Explaining Society

Co-convened by Nicole Curato and Selen Ercan, this unit introduced first year students of the School of Politics, Economics and Society to Ten Key Principles of Good Research. Joining the teaching team are Nardine Alnemr, Hans Asenbaum and Nick Vlahos, as well as Lain Dare from the Centre for Change Governance.

Our lectures were delivered online using demonstration cases, vlogs, and interviews where we flexed our global network of colleagues to talk about research methods and share their research stories. Our tutorials were delivered in-person at the University of Canberra's Bruce campus, and online from Canberra, Toronto and Vienna.

Students' Feedback

LOOOOVED this unit! It was super organised, and very well planned out. Super easy to follow and I knew exactly what I needed to do every week. I want more units to be as organised as this one!

...your creative and interesting presentations are also helpful to keep me going and very interested, so thank you both immensely. It is wonderful to be part of this unit during this time where we are all fumbling through having to be adaptable and flexible to accommodate the uncertainties faced in society on a day to day basis.

The unit conveners have gone a great effort to ensure that the unit is interesting and engaging, despite being totally online due to the pandemic.



Contemporary Regional Politics in a Global Context (European Politics)
Introduction to Public Policy
Professional Orientation (Government and Policy)

Pierrick Chalaye was part of the teaching team in these units for the Faculty of Business, Government and Law.

Teaching



Internship Programme

We had the honour of mentoring four bright interns from the Faculty of Arts and Design who worked on some of our most high-profile research projects.



Julia Enriquez



Chioma Madubuko



Mia McGaffin



Georgia Montgomery

Interns' Feedback

Chioma Helen Madubuko
Postgraduate Student in Communications

My internship at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance was an excellent experience! I was privileged to work closely with Associate Professor Selen Ercan and Dr Nick Vlahos, who assisted me in every aspect of my internship, and taught me many new skills in writing, presenting and doing research. As part of my internship, I worked in the Connecting to Parliament project. This project enhanced my understanding of deliberative democracy and enriched my knowledge of journalism.

During my internship, I conducted interviews with the project members, wrote a media release, and learnt to write an evaluation report about a deliberative process drawing on my participatory observation of the deliberative townhall, which took place at the University of Canberra. I wish to undertake future studies in the areas of Law and Politics and stay connected with the Centre.



Georgia Montgomery
Bachelor of Arts in Culture and Heritage

My time working at the Centre for the Deliberative Democracy was really rewarding. I was lucky enough to work on the Global Citizens' Assembly, and I spent my time researching how to include marginalised voices into the global conversation on genome editing. I felt really inspired by the project and by the way everyone at the centre communicated about it.

One of the most rewarding parts of the internship was getting to conduct my own research project. So much of the time at uni we only have a tight scope for our work. But for this project once I had been given the brief, I was able to then bring my own expertise and research to the project.

Best of all I was able to research in an area I am passionate about, children's advocacy. Before starting at UC, I was a preschool teacher for several years. After advocating for children as a teacher on the everyday level, it was illuminating to look at advocacy from the perspective of deliberative democracy in a global context.

Another remarkable thing was how trusted I felt as an intern, when I spoke to other researchers in the field and at the centre, I felt I was treated as a colleague, not just an intern. I was given genuine guidance and insight. This meant I was able to produce some of my best work.



Engaging with the Canberra community

Our Centre is committed to the University of Canberra's aim of building a civic university. This year, we amped up our engagement with the Canberra community through a range of activities.

Bringing 'fresh air' to Parliament

Our inaugural online and in-person townhall for our Connecting to Parliament project engaged with the constituents of Fenner in Canberra's northern and western suburbs. Andrew Leigh MP declared that his conscience vote on mitochondrial donation will be guided by the conversations that unfolded in these townhalls.



Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

We continue to explore ways to deepen democratic participation in the ACT with our friends from the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy. Here's a pic of CAPAD's brainstorming session with our summer school keynote speaker, Jane Suiter.

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NEWS

Public forums will shape Leigh's vote

Sally Whyte

MANY Australians would balk at the idea of importing elements of the American political process into Australia, but federal MP Andrew Leigh and a team of researchers at the University of Canberra are hoping they can replicate a process that will bring "fresh air" into Parliament.

It's called "Connecting to

to Congress, Dr Leigh will spend one online forum and one face-to-face forum listening to the views of those he represents on the issue of mitochondrial donation.

Mitochondrial diseases are inherited conditions that in severe cases can affect life expectancy, but new reproductive technology involving using genes from the mother and father, as well as mitochondria from a donor

not be bound to vote along with party policy.

"This is probably the only conscience vote that comes up in this term of Parliament, so if we were to explore deliberative democracy then this is the moment to do it," he said.

Associate Professor Selen Ercan, from the University of Canberra's Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, is part of the team working with the

connection is communicative connection - it's about opening up the channels of communication between [the] public and elected representatives, about ... listening and accountability as well," she said.

"It's about creating those spaces where the system can breathe, there's some fresh air coming through those windows."

While Canberrans may be familiar with deliberative

nection goes in different ways, both horizontal (between citizens) and vertical as well," she said. Participants will fill out a survey before and after each forum, tracking their views on the issue of mitochondrial donation and whether they changed through the conversation, as well their views on the process itself. There will be 30 to 35 people at each session, with the first taking place on Sunday

the floor to vote against party line.

Dr Leigh was coy at whether he already has a view on the legalisation of mitochondrial donation.

"My vote will be guided by the process, not bound by forums, online and in person, will be a chance to have a conversation about pros and cons of removing the ban on mitochondrial donation," he said.

Dr Leigh said he would

Multimedia Engagements

We have yet to upgrade our vlogging skills, but we're starting to get better at blogging and podcasting. 😊

Blogs

1. **Curato, Nicole** and **Niemeyer, Simon** (2020). Why we need a global citizens' assembly on genome editing. *The Conversation*. September 17.
2. Gagnon, Jean-Paul, Dean, Rikki, Afsahi, Afsoun, Beausoleil, Emily and Ercan, Selen (2020) Five Lessons for Democracy From the Covid-19 Pandemic. An international evaluation of democracy in crisis. *Public Seminar*. October 29.
3. Hendriks, Carolyn, **Ercan, Selen** and Boswell, John (2020) Mending our threadbare democracies. *Policy Forum*, October 29.
4. Manantan, Mark, **Sanchez, Emerson M.** and Lamchek, Jayson S. (2020) Why the Philippines Needs to Establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund. *The Diplomat*. October 12.

Podcasts

Selen and her co-authors began discussing their latest book *Mending Democracy* in podcasts *Democracy Paradox* (US) and *Democracy Sausage* (AU).

Meanwhile, Nicole released Season 2 of her podcast series *Philippines Beyond Clichés* published by New Mandala, Australian National University's website on Southeast Asian affairs. She also joined a series of interviews with Cas Mudde for his podcast *Radikaal*, talked about Covid19 in the Philippines in the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's podcast, and discussed her book in Delib's podcast series.



Television and Radio

1. Nicole continues her collaboration with CNN Philippines as television presenter and resident sociologist. In this role, Nicole spotlights the work of Filipino researchers specialising on a range of fields including human rights, public health, and financial insecurity, among others.
2. Nicole and Simon were featured in several interviews on ABC Radio discussing the Global Citizens' Assembly on Genome Editing.



Look ma, we're on The Daily Mail!

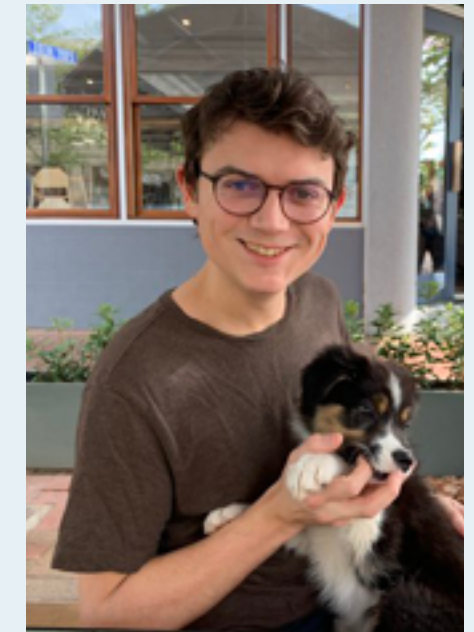
Our Science article calling for a global citizens' assembly on genome editing caught the attention of over 25 media outlets, including the Daily Mail. Other news coverage include pieces in the Genetic Literacy Project (USA), IDW (Germany), Jornal O Tempo (Brazil), Genethique (France) and more.

A Social Space

*Our year was bookended
by social activities
unfolding beyond Zoom!*



A Social Space



Welcome, farewell and congratulations

Welcome

Welcome to our latest long-distance relationship

Say hello to our awesome Deliberative Democracy Postdoctoral Research Fellows! We have been nurturing a long-distance relationship with our postdocs for months now, as Australia remains to restrict entry from overseas. We hope our LDR ends soon as we cannot wait to welcome our new colleagues in person!



Hans Asenbaum

The start of my three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Canberra was – like everything these days – strange. I was living in Germany and knee-deep in documents I assembled for my Australian visa. I had packed my things and was ready to fly around the world for the job I was so excited about. But instead of leaving Europe, I couldn't even leave the house. This did not keep me from starting my dream job, however and the wonderful team at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance have made it a fantastic start. I am privileged to teach the online unit Investigating and Explaining Society, which is a true pleasure due to the insightful material

and the energetic teaching team. Besides teaching, I have published two papers on participatory and deliberative democracy. I have also been working on a book project based on my dissertation thesis, which explores online anonymity and digital identity performances in democratic participation. I am also co-editing a book on various methods for the empirical study of deliberative democracy. Moreover, I am starting a study employing the grounded theory method to explore the Black Lives Matter movement. What we can learn from this is that long-distance relationships can work. Even if it means coping with longing.

Nick Vlahos

What a year. My living room still has packed boxes from when I was two weeks out from moving to Australia. Though I'm grounded in Toronto, 2020 has proven to be a great experience largely because of the team at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance. The integration into the work and networks of the Centre has exceeded any expectations I may have had. There are so many amazing people I've met (even if just virtually)! This year I've published a book on devolution in the UK, contributed to a special issue on critical institutionalism and subnational democratic struggle (forthcoming 2021), presented to our seminar series on scalar and spatial features of deliberative democracy in Toronto, and I've worked on the Connecting the Parliament project with a federal Member of the



Australian Parliament and the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability. 2021 will involve work on the Deliberative Integrity ARC grant, and the start of several projects about integrated democracy and deliberative decommodification, a deliberative systems approach to western alienation in Canada, and reflections on recreational democracy at the neighbourhood level. I can't wait to be with the team in Australia!

Farewell

We said farewell to our postdoctoral research fellows Jonathan Pickering and Jensen Sass. Not to worry though. Jonathan only moved to the School of Politics, Economics and Society, still in UC, while Jensen moved 7.5 kilometres away with his new post research fellow at the Australian National University. He is also part of our new Australian Research Council Grant.



Congratulations

Our pandemic year is also our record-breaking year for PhD completions. Congratulations to Jane Alver, Pierrick Chalaye and Emerson Sanchez for submitting your dissertations.



PhD students' testimonials

Jane Alver

The Centre for Deliberative Democracy has provided a supportive and stimulating environment in both the high times and the low times of a PhD. The very flat structure of the Centre has contributed to making me feel like a valued part of the academy and students participate in the life of the Centre, attending staff meetings and discussions. This enables us to learn about academic and administrative life at a University. I was fortunate to have inspiring and helpful teachers and mentors. My supervisors' enduring belief in the importance of my research and my ability as an emerging scholar made such a difference to my confidence to produce a quality thesis and to present ideas at domestic and international conferences. They also celebrate small wins through social media which helps grow your profile as an early career researcher. The international reputation of the Centre has also meant access to a steady stream of visiting scholars, many of which appear in my literature review!

Emerson Sanchez

As a PhD student of environmental politics and Philippine area studies, I could not have chosen a better place to do my research on mining disasters in the Philippines. At the Centre, I got the chance to work closely with my supervisors, John Dryzek and Nicole Curato, who are leading scholars in

Congratulations to Wendy-Conway Lamb for introducing us to Jasmin the latest addition to our deliberative democracy fam! We're also celebrating with Mohammad for the arrival of Adam Abdul-Hwas. We are looking forward to meeting you. 😊

my chosen research areas. My supervisors and the Centre staff mentored me in research, publication, and research dissemination. The Centre's vibrant academic community provides PhD students strong professional networks and social support during the candidature. Through these networks, I got invitations to present my research in workshops that led to my first journal article publication in a special issue.

Dissertation title: Discourses of Disaster and Development: Responses to Shocks in Philippine Mining

Pierrick Chalaye

I can, without hesitation, affirm that, as a PhD student at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, I have been among the lucky ones. First, the Centre has provided me with a stimulating and engaging intellectual environment. Indeed, I had the opportunity to meet and receive advice from the most prominent researchers in the field of deliberative democracy. Second, the Centre has provided me with an administrative shelter, preserved from dysfunctional centralised bureaucracies and thus making the PhD process (from application to submission) very smooth. Last, but not least, the Centre has formed a collective space in which I could find friends, social support and intellectual emancipation.

Dissertation title: Does deliberative capacity enhance the ability of states to prioritise biodiversity? Comparing France and Australia

The Year Ahead



Our Centre is growing in 2021. We are recruiting PhD students and researchers associated to our ARC projects and we are moving heaven and earth to bring Hans and Nick to Canberra. We are also looking forward to hosting visitors from Australia and overseas as soon as travel restrictions are lifted.

As always, we are keen to hear from you to explore possibilities for research collaboration, swap stories on hiking adventures and learn more about each other's proudest quarantine achievement.

We wish you a good year ahead!



Members



Nicole Curato
Associate Professor



John S. Dryzek
Centenary Professor and
ARC Laureate Fellow



Madeleine Egan
PhD Candidate



Mohammad Abdul-Hwas
PhD Candidate



Nardine Alnemr
PhD Candidate



Jane Alver
PhD Candidate



Selen A. Ercan
Associate Professor



Simon J. Niemeyer
Professor



Emerson Sanchez
PhD Candidate



Hans Asenbaum
Postdoctoral Research Fellow



Pierrick Chalaye
PhD Candidate



Wendy-Conway-Lamb
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Francesco Veri
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Nick Vlahos
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