



Democracy in the Future

How can our democracy be made fit for the future?

25-29 May 2022

Both within and outside the EU, pressure on democracy is on the increase. The present governments of Poland and Hungary are actively undermining their own democracies; in the USA undemocratic practices have been on the rise for a long time; and states such as Russia carry out elections and have apparently democratic constitutions, but this is only true on paper.

At the same time, voters feel less and less represented, the German Parliament is getting bigger and bigger after every election and the move towards authoritarian leaders is becoming ever stronger.

Against this background, we as voters wonder whether our ideas on democracy are still relevant. German democracy has existed almost unchanged for 73 years. In the same period, transatlantic travel has gone from ships to planes, and from telex and telegrams to Whatsapp and e-mail. Not to mention American democracy, which has basically remained unchanged for 233 years. Is it now appropriate to keep democracy unchanged all this time?

This seminar aims to tackle the basic core of democracy and its current problems. At the same time, ideas will also be revealed for adapting democracy to the situation of the 21st century and improving it.

Draft programme

Wednesday 25.5. 2022

From 15.30	Arrival of participants, check-in
16:45 – 17:45 h	Welcome and participants' expectations with Jonathan Utsch
17:45 – 18:30 h	Dinner
18:45 – 20:45 h	What is "democracy"? Workshop with Jonathan Utsch

Thursday 26.5.2022

08:15 – 09:00 h	Breakfast
09:15 – 10:45 h	Is it all over? The three waves of democratisation and the democratic movement till today. Lecture and discussion with Jonathan Utsch
11:00 – 12:30 h	We're in a serious crisis of democracy – or maybe not? Lecture and discussion with Jonathan Utsch
12:30 – 13:15 h	Lunch
16:15 – 17:45 h	What's the situation of democracy in the world? Workshop with Jonathan Utsch
17:45 – 18:30 h	Dinner
18:45 – 20:15 h	Film "A people's Chancellor" Film and discussion with Jonathan Utsch

Friday 27.5.2022

08:15 – 09:00 h	Breakfast
11:00 – 12:30 h	Epistocracy – a real alternative? Lecture and discussion with Dr Andreas Braune
12:30 – 13:15 h	Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 h	Westminster democracy in the 21 st century: an old system fit for the future? Lecture and discussion with Dr Ian King
16:15 – 17:45 h	Is every democracy the same? Workshop with Jonathan Utsch
17:45 – 18:30 h	Dinner
18:45 – 19:45 h	Summary of the day and conclusion with Jonathan Utsch

Saturday 28.5.2022

08:15 – 09:00 h	Breakfast
09:15 – 10:45 h	Citizens' assemblies as a step towards greater citizens' participation. Lecture and discussion with Thorsten Sterk of Mehr Demokratie e.V.
11:00 – 12:30 h	The Internet as a medium for greater democratic participation. Lecture and discussion with Marius Krüger of "Democracy Deutschland e.V."
12:30 – 13:15 h	Lunch
15:30 – 17:45 h	What should the democracy of the future look like? What do I expect from it? Workshop (including 15 minute break) Workshop with Jonathan Utsch
17:45 – 18:30 h	Dinner
18:45 – 19:45 h	Final evaluation

Sunday 29.5.2022

08:15 – 09:00 h	Breakfast
From 09:00 h	Departure of participants

If no other speaker is listed, the unit will be lead by the conference team.

Organiser

Sonnenberg-Kreis – Gesellschaft zur Förderung internationaler Zusammenarbeit e.V.
Clausthaler Str. 11, 37444 St. Andreasberg

Conference Team

Jonathan Utsch MA, Education staff, St AndreasbergName, Position, Ort

Speakers

Dr. Ian King, London
Marius Krüger, Founder & Chair „Democracy Deutschland e.V.“, Göttingen
Thorsten Sterk, campaigner for “Mehr Demokratie e.V.”, Cologne
Dr Andreas Braune, lecturer, Jena University, Jena

Interpreter

Pia Sabados-Loges, Diplom-Dolmetscherin, Meckenheim

Conference Language

German/English

Conference Fee

380,00 EUR accomodation in single room including full board

360,00 EUR accomodation in double room including full board

As well as shuttle service from Bad Harzburg station to conference center and back, at listed times.

Conference Number

16687

Disclaimer on Public Accessibility

This seminar is listed/announced with contents and conditions on
Homepage of Sonnenberg-Kreis e. V.: <http://www.sonnenberg-international.de>

Registered for Funding



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The conference fee is splitted: 2/3 are assinged to the seminar, 1/3 is used on institutional cost coverage.

Meals

08:15-09:00 h - Breakfast

12:30-13:15 h - Lunch

from 14:00 h - Coffee/tea & cake

17:45-18:30 h - Dinner

Education and Conference Center

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