News and Activities from the PROCEDEM Working Group

The Working Group on ‘Democratic Procedures’ (PROCEDEM), affiliated both to the CPS and the CEVIPOF (Sciences Po Paris) was launched in September 2015. It will be represented at the next IPSA Congress in Istanbul with 3 panels and papers by its members.


Panel - Non-elective Procedures in Divided Societies (convenor: Mindy Peden)
Chair: Peter Stone.
With papers by Oliver Dowlen (‘Random Recruitment and Permanent Mediation in Divided Societies – the Prospects for Greater Political Equality’) and Peter Stone (‘Sortition in Deeply-divided Societies’).

Panel - The Crisis-solving Potential of Referendums (convenor: Laurence Morel)
Chairs: Laurence Morel and Gil Delannoi.

Panel - Instatiating Epistemic Democracy through Institutional Design (convenor: Andreï Poama)
Chair: John Medearis.
With papers by Helene Landemore (‘In Defence of Epistemic Democracy’) and Andreï Poama (‘Virtual Democracy and the Multiple Jury: An Epistemich-cum-egalitarian Account’).

2. Activities/Publications of the PROCEDEM since September 2015

Gil Delannoi presented the paper ‘Sortive Democracy’ at the International Conference on ‘The Institutionalization of Deliberative Democracy in a Comparative Perspective’, Nankai University, Tianjin, December 4-6, 2015.

Abstract: After two centuries of silence, the last twenty years have witnessed renewed interest in the use of random selection (or sortition) as a political device. This interest manifests itself through several approaches: political theory, history of democracy, theory of knowledge, democratic thinking, deliberative democracy and local experiments. The aim in this paper is to address the following issues. First, to define a sortive kind of democracy in comparison with the direct and indirect kinds and then to devise possible combinations between these different kinds of democracy. Second, to recapitulate, similarly to a short instruction book or user’s manual, the different practical options for any implementation of a procedure including random selection (size of the pool and size of the sample, mandatory or facultative participation, short or long terms, training, etc.). Third, to provide examples of institutional design for public consultation and democratic decision-making.

Laurence Morel has signed a contract with Ashgate Publishers to co-edit with Matt Qvortrup The Ashgate Research Companion to Referendums and Direct Democracy, a 25 to 30 chapters compendium which will appeal to the most recognized experts of referendums and cover all aspects of referendums and related areas such as recall (petitions signed by registered voters to force a public vote), citizen-juries, the initiative and legislative petitions. The book will look empirically and theoretically at key issues like: how to study referendums comparatively, why are referendums favoured or disliked, why are they held, are they fulfilling in practice the democratic ideal, what are their effects on policies and politics, how are they regulated and how could referendum best practices be defined? (estimated publication date: 2017).

Oliver Dowlen attended the conference ‘Tirage au Sort et Démocratie Directe: les témoignages antiques et leur postérité’ at the Ecole Française d’Athènes, October 29-31, 2015, where he presented the paper ‘A Framework for Understanding the Fuller Political Potential of Random Recruitment’. He also attended the conference ‘Democracy in the 21st century’, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, December 9-11, 2015, where he presented the paper ‘Institutional Design using Random Recruitment: from Process to Principles to Product’. In late 2015 he obtained funding from the Australian organisation NewDemocracy to write a feasibility study of a scheme to use randomly selected citizens to oversee the work of elected
representatives and act as a means of linking them with their constituents. This scheme will be applicable in both UK and Australian contexts.


Antoine Chollet published and presented the following works:

Forthcoming:
‘Le pouvoir du hasard: expériences de tirage au sort en Suisse’, panel for the Swiss Days on History, University of Lausanne, 9-11 June 2016.