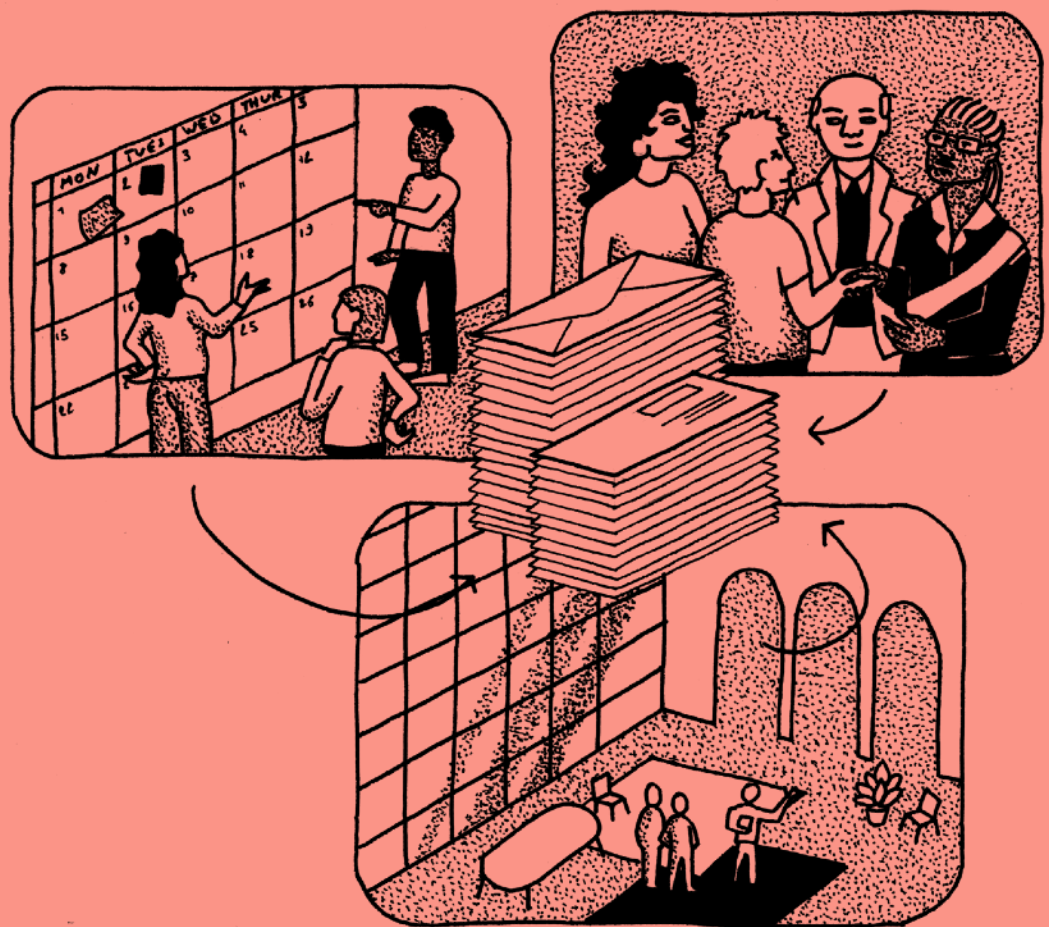


Workshop: Lessons learned from institutionalising deliberative assemblies



16 August 2024
9.00 - 17.00

The School of Politics and International Relations
Boardroom/Peter Mair Library, Room F302
Newman Building, University College Dublin

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DemocracyNext

Context

This millennium has seen the proliferation of deliberative mini-publics (DMPs). For the most part, these have tended to be one-off – established in willy-nilly fashion by commissioning authorities (governments, parliaments, local administrations), who to varying degrees set the agenda, control the process, and determine the extent of follow through.

But there are, perhaps, early signs of a transition on-going in a small number of cases. The last decade has seen slow but emerging evidence of efforts to institutionalise sortition based deliberative processes in a way that moves beyond the rather siloed DMP model (OECD 2021). These new institutions are connected to various public decision-making bodies at different levels of government, with diverse mandates, and with more devolved power.

In the promise of further growth of embedded deliberative citizen engagement in the coming years, it is important to reflect on what has been occurred to date, what can be learnt from it, and how it may develop in the future.

About the workshop

To start this reflection, we're organising a one-day workshop at UCD on August 16, 2024, the day following the end of this year's [ECPR General Conference](#), which is being hosted by UCD. The aim is to eventually produce an edited volume on this topic.

The intention is to bring together key scholars and practitioners in this field to facilitate an in-depth stock take of the field and to draw lessons from the current examples of institutionalising deliberative democracy. The objective is to better understand what approaches have been tried, what has worked well, and what could be improved.

The workshop also aims to identify enablers of systemic change towards a more deliberative future and open up the field to new questions of research and exploration.

We explore the legal, regulatory, cultural, and physical infrastructure needed to enable embedding citizen deliberation in a systematic way. As interest shifts towards binding decision-making power of such bodies, we explore implications for accountability and legitimacy, as well as practical considerations regarding constitutional change often needed to enable such possibilities.

With representative deliberative processes increasingly more applied to tackle complex policy problems globally, we take on the questions of how to achieve an equitable transition across different parts of the world. As embedded citizen deliberation is gradually anchored in democratic systems, we discuss its impact on citizens, governments, policies, communities, and the trust people have in these embedded democratic innovations.

[Read more about the project.](#)

Agenda

- 9.00-9.15** **Arrivals**
- 9.15-9.30** Welcome
— David Farrell, UCD, Claudia Chwalisz, and Ieva Cesnulaityte, DemocracyNext
- 9.30-11.00** First panel: Infrastructure for systemic change and institutionalisation
10 minute presentation each, 40 minutes Q&A and discussion
Moderator: David Farrell
- Envisioning institutionalised assemblies: Nicole Curato, University of Canberra
 - Legal barriers: Julian Clarenne, UCLouvain (virtual)
 - Measuring impact: Stephen Elstub, Newcastle University
 - Psychological aspects: Ieva Cesnulaityte, DemocracyNext
 - Language: Claudia Chwalisz, DemocracyNext
- 11.00-11.30** **Break**
- 11.30-13.00** Second panel: Lessons from different approaches to institutionalisation
10 minute presentation each, 50 minutes Q&A and discussion
Moderator: Claudia Chwalisz
- Ostbelgien Citizens' Council: Rebecca Gebauer, UCLouvain
 - Paris Citizens' Assembly: Héloïse Legris, City of Paris
 - Francophone Brussels Parliament Mixed Committees: Jonathan Moskovic, Democratic innovation advisor (virtual)
 - Ireland's Citizens' Assemblies: Jane Suiter, Dublin City University
- 13.00-14.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00-15.30** Third panel: Institutionalisation in cities
10 minute presentation each, 40 minutes Q&A and discussion
Moderator: Ieva Cesnulaityte
- Bogota Itinerant Citizens' Assembly: Felipe Rey Salamanca, iDeemos (virtual)
 - Toronto Planning Review Panel: Daniel Fusca, City of Toronto (virtual)
 - Brussels Permanent Climate Assembly: Merlijn De Rijcke, Bruxelles Environnement (virtual)
 - Citizen-led urban planning: James MacDonald-Nelson, DemocracyNext
 - Spatial infrastructure for deliberation: Gustav Kjær Vad Nielsen, University of Cambridge (virtual)

Agenda

- 15.30-16.00 Break
- 16.00-16.50 Discussion of next steps
Discussion about the book, chapter length etc.
- 16.50-17.00 A round of sharing key takeaways

Speakers

1. Ieva Cesnulaityte, DemocracyNext
2. Claudia Chwalisz, DemocracyNext
3. Julian Clarenne, UCLouvain (virtual)
4. Nicole Curato, University of Canberra
5. Merlijn De Rijcke, Bruxelles Environnement (virtual)
6. Stephen Elstub, Newcastle University
7. David Farrell, UCD
8. Daniel Fusca, City of Toronto (virtual)
9. Rebecca Gebauer, UCLouvain
10. Gustav Kjær Vad Nielsen, University of Cambridge (virtual)
11. Héloïse Legris, City of Paris
12. James MacDonald-Nelson, DemocracyNext
13. Jonathan Moskovic, Democratic innovation advisor (virtual)
14. Felipe Rey Salamanca, iDeemos (virtual)
15. Jane Suiter, Dublin City University

This event has been sponsored by the Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association of Ireland, and by the UCD School of Politics and International Relations.