

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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This conference is supported by the Charles University Cooperatio Programme, research area Political Science.

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### **Ideas in Politics**

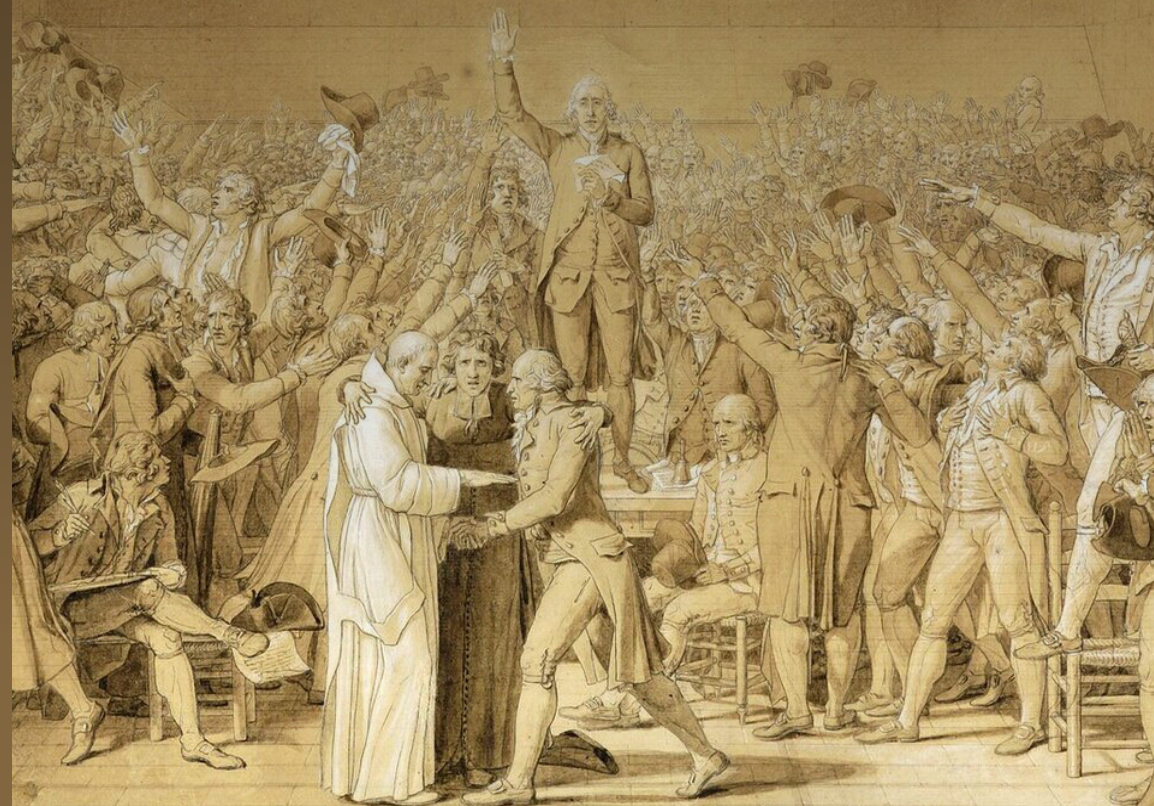
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# RETHINKING REPRESENTATION

5<sup>TH</sup> IDEAS IN POLITICS CONFERENCE

Conference Programme

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November 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>

Prague

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# About the Conference

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Democratic theorists have long been suspicious of representation, seeing it as alien or contradictory to democracy. Some still consider representation and democracy, in Hanna Pitkin's words, an "uneasy alliance". The discontent expressed by citizens in the slogan "*We have a vote, but we do not have a voice!*" during various protest movements throughout the last fifteen years gives credence to Pitkin's warning. The latest developments also urge us to rethink the concept of representation and its place in democracy. The so-called constructivist turn proposed a novel approach to representation, which allowed for a deeper appreciation of its democratic potential beyond electoral procedures. At the same time, it introduced a new set of questions regarding representation's democratic deficit.

The conference invites researchers to discuss some of these questions. Are there ways to rearticulate the democracy-representation relationship that would overcome citizens' discontent and help tackle pressing global issues? How should this re-articulation look vis-à-vis the climate crisis, which raises an urgent question of how to represent the non-human? Are there ways to rethink representation to better cope with long-time pressing issues of social inequality or distrust towards institutions today enhanced by digital technologies, enabling easier dissemination of conspiracy theories? What is the future of democratic representation beyond electoral procedures and nation-states? Or does representation already belong to the past as a democratically exhausted concept?

The conference will be jointly hosted by the Institute of Political Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, the Department of Political Science at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, and the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

# About the Series

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*Ideas in Politics* is a series of conferences in political theory, political philosophy and related disciplines organised by the Institute of Political Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University together with its partner institutions.

The conferences focus on theoretically and politically important topics that are relevant for political theorists and political philosophers, as well as empirically-oriented political scientists and scholars from related fields, such as moral philosophy, sociology or history.

## Organising Institutions

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### **Institute of Political Studies**

The Institute of Political Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University was established shortly after the Velvet Revolution in 1990. Today, the Institute comprises the Departments of Political Science, International Relations and Security Studies and the Centre for Security Policy. It offers degree programmes in Czech and English languages at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels of study.

The Institute of Political Studies publishes two peer-reviewed journals: *Acta Politologica* (ACPO) and *The Annual of Language & Politics and Politics of Identity* (ALPPI), both of which are indexed in the Scopus database, and hosts (or co-hosts) various international conferences.

### **Department of Political Science**

The Department of Political Science at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University is the oldest political science department in the Czech Republic being established in the late sixties. However, the department was cancelled shortly afterwards after the fall of the Prague spring. The department was re-es-

established shortly after the so-called Velvet revolution at the end of 1989. Since then, the department has focused mainly on political theory. It offers degree programmes in political theory in the Czech language at undergraduate and graduate level and political science programme in Czech and English languages at the doctoral level of study.

### **Institute of Philosophy**

The Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences is a publicly funded non-university research institution. The Institute conducts interdisciplinary research in key areas of philosophy and related humanities. The Institute is the largest humanities institute affiliated with the Czech Academy of Sciences. The Institute publishes nine scholarly journals (including the most prominent national philosophy journal *Filosofický časopis* (the Philosophical Journal) and the long-running classics journal *Listy filologické* (*Folia filologica*), several of which are intended for the international audience and are abstracted/indexed in scholarly databases such as Scopus, Web of Science etc. It also houses two book publishers: *Filosofia* and *OIKOYMENH*. *Filosofia* publishes original works in philosophy and the humanities by Czech researchers and translations of significant philosophical texts. *OIKOYMENH*'s output concentrates primarily on translations of classical works and contemporary contributions to the continental tradition.

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# Keynote Speakers

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## **Mónica Brito Vieira**

Mónica Brito Vieira is a professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of York.

Her research covers the history of political thought, contemporary political theory and intellectual history. In recent years, her research has focused on the history and theory of political representation. Besides many book chapters and journal papers, she is the author or co-author of several books, including *The Elements of Representation in Hobbes: Aesthetics, Theatre, Law, and Theology in the Construction of Hobbes's Theory of the State* (Brill 2009); *O Momento Constituinte: Os Direitos Sociais na Constituição* (Edições Almedina 2010); *Representation* (Polity 2013); *The Politics of the Book: A Study on the Materiality of Ideas* (Penn State University Press 2019), and her latest work *Democracy and the Politics of Silence* (forthcoming from Penn State University Press 2024). She is also editor of the *Reclaiming Representation: Contemporary Advances in the Theory of Political Representation* (Routledge 2019).

Professor Brito Vieira's keynote speech is entitled *Representing Silence*.

## **Paula Diehl**

Paula Diehl is a professor of Political Theory, History of Ideas and Political Culture, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel.

Professor Diehl's research interests cover a wide area ranging from the history of ideas to political representation and populism. Besides many journal papers and book chapters, Professor Diehl is the author of the book *Macht – Mythos – Utopie. Die Körperbilder der SS-Männer* (Akademie Verlag 2005) and editor of *Das Symbolische, das Imaginäre und die Demokratie. Eine Theorie politischer Repräsentation* (Nomos

Verlag 2015). She is also a co-editor of *The Complexity of Populism: New Approaches and Methods* (Routledge 2023).

Professor Diehl will present a keynote lecture *When the Populist Far Right Plays with Politainment: Reflecting on political performances today*.

### **Lisa Jane Disch**

Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

Professor Disch's research interests include contemporary continental political thought, feminist theory, political ecology, theories of democracy, and theories of political representation. Apart from many papers published by the leading journals, Professor Disch is the author of three books: *Hannah Arendt and the Limits of Philosophy* (Cornell University Press, 1994); *The Tyranny of the Two Party System* (Columbia University 2002); and most recently *Making Constituencies: Representation as Mobilization in Mass Democracy* (University of Chicago Press 2021). She is also a co-editor of *The Constructivist Turn in Political Representation* (Edinburgh University Press, 2019) and *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory* (Oxford University Press 2016).

Professor Disch's keynote lecture is entitled *Political Representation: Cause or cure for democracy's discontent*.

### **Sofia Näsström**

Sofia Näsström is professor at the Department of Government, Uppsala Universitet

Professor Näsström is a political theorist mainly concerned with democratic theory and understanding democracy as a political lifeform. Aside from many journal studies, she is author of two books: *The Spirit of Democracy: Corruption, Disintegration, Renewal* (Oxford University Press 2021) and *Demokrati. En liten bok om en stor sak* (Historiska Media 2021), which received the Disa Prize for popular science writ-

ing. Currently, she is working on her new book entitled *Democracy and the Social Question: Sharing Uncertainty in Uncertain Times* (forthcoming from Cambridge University Press).

Professor Näsström will present a keynote speech entitled **Democracy vs. Autocracy: Representation in a new key.**

# Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

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<b>9.00–10.00 AM</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>10.00–10.30 AM</b>	<b>Welcome Address (Room 300)</b>
<b>10.30AM–12.00 PM</b>	<b>Plenary Session I (Room 300)</b>

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Sofia Näsström      *Democracy vs. Autocracy:  
Representation in a new key*

**12.00–1.00 PM Lunch Break**

**1.00–2.30 PM Panel Session 1**

**Room 300 Panel 1.1 Representation and Democracy I**

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Lelde Luika
Arthur Ghins	<i>The First Theorists of Liberal Democracy</i>
Joshua Rayman	<i>Neither Democratic, Nor Representative</i>
Jason Guo	<i>Performance and Dialogue: The dynamics of representation and legitimacy in modern democracies</i>

**Room 325 Panel 1.2 Representation of the Non-Human**

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Deborah Cohen
Michael Sochor	<i>The First Theorists of Liberal Democracy</i>

Julita Skotarska & Dan Swain *Can a Glacier Really be President (of Iceland)? From non-human representation to non-human representatives*

## **2.30–3.00 PM Coffee Break**

## **3.00–4.30 PM Panel Session 2**

### **Room 300 Panel 2.1 Demagoguery and Representation from a Historical Perspective I**

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Kristina Broučková
Giuseppe Ballacci	<i>Representation, Democracy, and Populism: Ancient and modern “perspectives“</i>
Théo Millat-Carus	<i>White Knights vs. Black Sheep: Fifty shades of demagogos</i>
Deborah Cohen	<i>Representation and Demagogy: Visions of the sovereignty of the people during the French Revolution</i>

### **Room 325 Panel 2.2 Aesthetics, Representation, Democracy**

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Dan Swain
Jan Šíma	<i>Audiences Between Deception and Empowerment: On the performative aspects of political representation</i>
Keren Shahar	<i>The Limits of Representation: The question of the relationship between aesthetics and politics</i>

## 5.00–6.00 PM Panel Session 3

### Room 300 Panel 3.1 Demagoguery and Representation from a Historical Perspective II

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Kristina Broučková
Samuel Hayat	From Plebs to Proletariat: The Evolution of <i>demagogic</i> representation from radical Enlightenment to early socialism
Emilie Frenkiel & Anna Shpakovskaya	<i>Maoism, the Chinese Communist Party and Demagogic Representation</i>

### Room 325 Panel 3.2 Concept of Representation I

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Lelde Luika
Cristian Rivera Colón	<i>Representation as Interpretation: Reconciling some false dichotomies</i>
Chelsea Guo	<i>A Constructivist Defence of Descriptive Representation</i>

# Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

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## 9.30–10.30 AM Panel Session 4

### Room 300 Panel 4.1 Representation and Democracy II

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Martin Šimsa
Agata Czarnecka	<i>We the Judges: Constitutional courts and representation</i>
Alok Kumar	<i>Representation and the Paradoxes of Epistemic Proceduralism and Epistemic Instrumentalism</i>

### Room 325 Panel 4.2 Representation beyond Elections

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Martin Brabec
Kristina Broučková	<i>The Puzzling Purpose of Elections in Representative Democracy: Staging conflict in a society of uncertainty</i>
Ünsal Doğan Başkır	<i>Beyond Republican Statism and Politics of Rupture: Arendt's Council System as the Future of Democratic Politics</i>

## 10.30–11.00 AM Coffee Break

## **11.00 AM–12.30 PM Panel Session 5**

### **Room 300 Panel 5.1 Concept of Representation II**

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Giuseppe Ballacci
Anna Weithaler & Florian Pistor	<i>Towards a Post-Foundationalist Theory of Political Representation</i>
Adriano Giuliani & Sofia Kalashnikova	National Identity as a Subject of <i>Representation</i>

### **Room 325 Panel 5.2 Representation and Democracy III**

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Joshua Rayman
Martin Brabec	<i>Contradiction within Liberal Democracy</i>
Martin Šimsa	<i>Representative Democracy: Description, theory, or alibi?</i>
Janusz Salamon	<i>Global Agathocracy as a Precondition of Local Democracy: A transcultural philosophical perspective</i>

## **12.00–1.00 PM Lunch Break**

**2.00–3.30 PM                      Plenary Session II (Room 300)**

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Paula Diehl    *When the Populist Far Right Plays with Politainment: Reflecting on political performances today*

**4.00–5.30 PM                      Plenary Session III (Room 300)**

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Mónica Brito Vieira    *Representing Silence*

# Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

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## 9.30–10.30 AM Panel Session 6

### Room 300 Panel 6.1 Concept of Representation II

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Tomás Halamka
Albano Pina	<i>Mediation without Representation: Spinoza and the Natural Foundations of Political Society</i>
Lucio Meola	<i>Articulation, Unification, Representation: A journey between Hobbes and Laclau</i>
Lelde Luika	<i>Normativity in Constitutive Views of Representation: Reading Arendt and Lefort on authority and political institu- tions</i>

## 10.30–11.00 AM Coffee Break

## 9.30–10.30 AM Panel Session 7

### Room 300 Panel 7.1 Populism as a Form of Representation

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<i>Panel chair</i>	Jakub Franěk
Théo Aiolfi & Thomás Zicman de Barros	<i>The Transgressive Aesthetics of Populism</i>
Kristian Těmín	<i>Between Global Populism and Social Movement: Who is represented by Gre-ta Thunberg?</i>
Pedro Pinheiro	<i>Left Populism and its Undemocratic Tendencies</i>
Tomáš Dvořák & Michael Weiss	<i>Centrist Populism? A critical evaluation of a concept</i>

## 1.00–2.30 PM Lunch Break

### 2.30–4.00 PM Plenary Session IV (Room 300)

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Lisa Disch	<i>Political Representation: Cause or cure for democracy's discontent</i>
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### 4–4.30 PM Concluding Remarks (Room 300)