

Participation as depoliticization? The rise and fall of a political ideal

Evening Lecture and Discussion with Luigi Pellizzoni

February 14th 2018, 6 pm
Clubraum, building LC, Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Wien

The crisis of representative democracy in the context of accelerated socio-technical change opened the way, between the 1980s and 1990s, to a new season of participatory democracy, grounded on 'deliberative arenas'. Their growing diffusion and integration in the policy process, however, has been counterpointed by mounting criticisms, concerning their depoliticizing implications, followed by counter-criticisms stressing the political value of these processes. The presentation will argue that, to make proper sense of the issue, one is to consider the framework in which deliberative democracy has spread, as characterized by the ethicization of engagement, the emergence of insecurity as a key social cleavage, the explosion of new social media, and the return of authoritarianism in the disguised form of political authority and scientific expertise.

Luigi Pellizzoni is professor of Sociology at the University of Pisa. His research interests intersect environmental issues, techno-scientific change, conflict and political participation. Among his recent publications: "Ontological Politics in a Disposable World: The New Mastery of Nature", Routledge, 2016.

Moderation: Daniel Hausknost, WU-Institute for Social Change and Sustainability (IGN)

The event takes place at Vienna University of Economics and Business,
Clubraum (first floor), building LC, Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Wien

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