

Direct Voting in Normative Democratic Theories

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Outline of the lecture

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2024/12/17

- ▶ A list of five essay titles
- ▶ Positive and Normative Arguments
- ▶ The Pros and Cons of Direct Democracy
- ▶ 'Strong Democracy'
- ▶ Deliberative Democracy
- ▶ Discussions

A list of five essay topics

(**Minimum 1,000 words**, deadline 21/01/2025)

- ▶ How does Athenian Direct Democracy influence our modern views on democracy?
- ▶ Voting rules in Direct Democracy: regulating vs. manipulating
- ▶ Engineering Self-Determination through Direct Democracy
- ▶ Direct and Representative Democracy: differences and similarities
- ▶ The Relevance of Direct Democracy Today

Positive and normative arguments

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- ▶ Normative and Positive Statements
 - ▶ Normative (ideal): what 'should be', desirable or undesirable, morally right or wrong,
 - ▶ Positive (existence, being): 'what is', maybe right or wrong but morally neutral
- ▶ Positive statements' perceived scientificness
 - ▶ Karl Popper: falsification
 - ▶ Thomas Kuhn: paradigm shift
- ▶ Normative beliefs in our limited lives
 - ▶ The finitude of being
 - ▶ The influences of normative concerns

The pros and cons of direct democracy

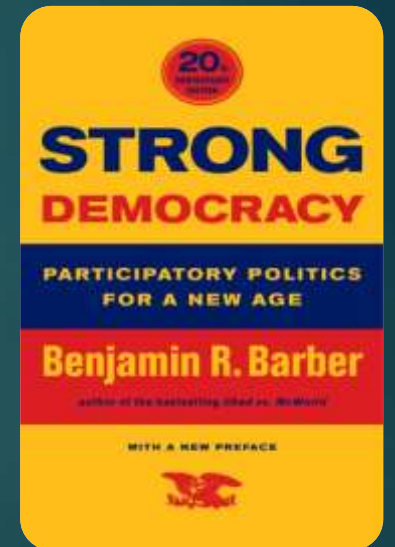
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- ▶ Direct vs. representative democracy
 - ▶ Voter competence (interest, knowledge)
 - ▶ Accurate representation?
- ▶ Majoritarian vs. consensual democracy
 - ▶ Intensity of voters' preferences (interests)
 - ▶ Seeking compromise and consensus
- ▶ Organization and leadership in direct and representative democracy
 - ▶ Political parties, interest groups
 - ▶ Politicians (MPs, political leaders)

'Strong democracy'

- ▶ Benjamin Barber (1984)
- ▶ 'Thin democracy' (liberal democracy) vs. 'Strong democracy' (participatory democracy)
 - ▶ Liberty or **citizenship**: which came first?
 - ▶ 'to be free we must be self-governing; to have rights we must be citizens. In the end, only citizens can be free.'
- ▶ Criticizing liberal democracy
 - ▶ '[Liberal democracy] concerns more to promote individual liberty than to secure public justice, to advance interests rather than to discover goods, and to keep men safely apart rather than to bring them fruitfully together.'



'Strong democracy'

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- ▶ Three dispositions of liberal democracy
 - ▶ Anarchist (conflict-denying): privacy, liberty, individualism, property
 - ▶ Realist (conflict-repressing): law, power, coercive mediation, sovereign adjudication
 - ▶ Minimalist (conflict-tolerating): tolerance, pluralism, separation of power, small government
- ▶ Strong democracy: Politics as a Way of Living
 - ▶ '**Transforming** conflict through a politics of distinctive inventiveness and discovery'
 - ▶ Key transformations through 'strong democracy'

Private → public	dependency → interdependency
conflict → cooperation	license → self-legislation
need → love	bondage → citizenship

Deliberative democracy

- ▶ Public deliberation by the people
 - ▶ Precondition: Respecting pluralism of values and aims
 - ▶ Process: Deliberation based agreed ways of reasoning
 - ▶ Result: Compliance with the outcomes of deliberation
- ▶ Deliberation proceeds democratic decision-making (voting)
 - ▶ Creating the ideal conditions of **impartiality, rationality, and knowledge** before decision-making
- ▶ Deliberative polls (James Fishkin)
 - ▶ Example: Informed polling in Japan

区の名にちなみ、二枚旗がとて
記念式典を開く。

(吉田 勝行)

道州制の県民意識調査

「新手法」導入で 知事が意見交換

「討議型意識調査」とい
うアンケート実施と討議を
組み合わせた意識調査の手
法の考案者として知られる
米スタンフォード大学のジ
ームス・S・フィッシュ
キン教授らが8日、県庁を
訪れ、松沢成文知事らと意
見交換を行った。県では「道
州制」について、日本で初
めてこの手法を導入。県民
の意見をより正確に把握し
たいとしている。

同調査は従来の世論調査
などと違い、アンケートの
回答後、議案について討議
してもらい、最初のアンケ
ート時には知らなかった必
要な情報を備えてもらった
上で、再度アンケートを実

意見交換する松沢知事

(右)とフィッシュキン

教授

＝県庁

施する。「知らない」人を
なくし、正確な民意が把握
できるという。欧米など二
十数力国で導入。県は東工
大大学院などと研究してお
り、9月に無作為抽出した
県民3千人に対して道州制
について、第1回アンケー
トを日本で初めて開始して
いる。

松沢知事は「わたしは『道
州制大推進論者』だ。この
意識調査を実施することで
県民に広く道州制について
知ってもらい、議論を踏ま
えた上で多くの意見を出し
てもらいたい」と話してい
た。

(岡村 健寛)



Discussions

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- ▶ How do you consider the roles of normative statement in our daily lives?
- ▶ What are the advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy?
- ▶ What are differences between strong democracy and liberal democracy? Which one do you think is more desirable?
- ▶ Why is deliberation an essential element of informed direct democracy?

Suggested Reading for the next class

- ▶ Anders Todal Jenssen and Ola Listaug (2001) 'Ch. 8 Voters' Decisions in the Nordic EU Referendums of 1994: the Importance of Party Cues', in *Referendum Democracy*, Basingstoke: Palgrave, pp. 169-190.