

Call for communications

CEE's Doctoral Study Day

Sciences Po, December 13th, 2019

The PhD students of the Center for European Studies and Comparative Politics will organize on **December 13** their first doctoral study day, dedicated to **the challenges of representative democracy**. The study day will be **a series of four round tables**, each focused on a specific theme and moderated by a CEE senior researcher.

Each round table, one and a half hours long, will begin with **two communications** of 25 minutes each, followed by **an exchange and discussion time** organized by the moderator, and will be concluded by a brief questions-answers session. The goal is then to show what social sciences can bring to topical debates, and to be understood by the widest audience.

Only PhD students can propose a communication for one or more round tables*. The proposals must be **1000 words long** and be sent **before September 20**, along with a presentation paragraph indicating the research themes and the attachment unit of the candidate. The communications of the study day will be selected before **October 31**.

The proposals can be **either in French or in English**. If the proposal is in English (respectively in French), the candidate **must declare** whether he or she would be able to do its presentation and the follow-up discussion in French (respectively in English). The language of each round table will be decided following the preferences of the candidates.

The candidates are prompted, as far as possible, to present **comparative works on European democracies**. However, there is **no restriction** of discipline, geographical area or approach as far as the proposals fits with the angle of the round tables.

The proposals are to be sent to doctorants.ceesp@gmail.com

Study day's theme: Challenges of representative democracy

This doctoral study day fits in the axis "Tensions of representative democracy", whose premise is: *"The fact that representative democracy is weakening in multiple ways and for multiple reasons is beyond doubt. Political participation is changing and exposing fractures and inequalities. The lines between those included in and those excluded from the political system are shifting. Voting patterns show forms of rejection of the traditional elites or their choices. The procedural framework of representative democracy is also changing. The reversion to an illiberal form of democracy, reduced to electoral choices, seems to be less and less confined to a few isolated cases in Eastern Europe. In addition, the cooperation between states within the framework of regional integration, in particular the EU, is challenging the mechanisms of accountability, but also – more simply – of political choice".*

Round table n°1: “The assemblies facing criticisms of representative democracy”

How do the assemblies of representative democracy, either local or national parliaments, react to the criticisms of the current functioning of parliamentary democracies? How do they seek to renew their practices in front of demands of citizen participation? How do they attempt to preserve their legitimacy in front of antiparliamentarian or populist discourses gaining credit in the public debate?

Discussion moderated by Olivier Rozenberg, scientific officer of the seminar “POLitics and PARliament” (POPAP)

Round table n°2: “Mainstream parties facing populisms and extremisms”

How do mainstream parties, from right to left, which have ruled liberal democracies without sharing since the postwar era, react to parties proposing radical ideologies as well as “groundbreaking” governing styles? How have these opponents transformed on the long run their ideological discourse and their governmental action? Is the sanitary cordon de facto outdated?

Discussion moderated by Jan Rovny, co-animator of the axis “Tensions of representative democracy”

Round table n°3: « Political organizations facing diversity requests”

How do political organizations, whether parties, associations or institutions, attempt to implement policies to improve representation of genders, ages, ethnic origins, social groups, and so on? Are these policies a specific feature of the so-called progressive organizations? Is better representativeness of political organizations rather a pledge than a reality?

Discussion moderated by Laura Morales, Principal Investigator of the project “INCLUSIVEPARL”

Round table n°4: “Representative democracy facing the digital challenge”

How do traditional political organizations take advantage or not from the new opportunities of the digital revolution? Does the latter transform their discourse or their way of representing citizens? Does it foster ways to cross geographical, ideological or social borders? What is the impact of the surge of social networks on the ways of doing politics, and who benefits from it?

Discussion moderated by Caterina Froio, co-animator of the axis “Tensions of representative democracy”