



Universität Stuttgart

Institut für Sozialwissenschaften

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Politische Theorie und Empirische Demokratieforschung

To deliberate or not to deliberate: a qualitative analysis of (non-)participation in mini-publics

An increasing number of scholars and political actors support the development of mini-publics – that is, deliberative forums with randomly selected lay citizens. It is often argued that such innovations are a key ingredient to curing the democratic malaise of contemporary political regimes because they provide an appropriate means to achieve inclusiveness and well considered judgment. Nevertheless, real-life experience shows that the majority of citizens refuse the invitation when they are recruited. This raises a challenging question for the development of a more inclusive democracy: Why do citizens decline or accept to participate in minipublics? This talk addresses this issue through a qualitative analysis of the perspectives of those who have been contacted to participate in three mini-publics: the G1000, the G100 and the Climate Citizens Parliament. The analysis shows that the reluctance to take part in mini-publics is rooted in the way individuals conceive their own roles, abilities and capacities in the public sphere, as well as in the perceived output of such democratic innovations.

Dr. Vincent Jacquet

**UCLouvain,
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Alle sind herzlich eingeladen!

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