

Sted/Place: Department of Political Science, Rosenborggade 15,
room 201

Dato/Date: March 20-21

Ansvarlig/Responsible: Henrik Bang

Democracy after Governance

- deliberation, representation and participation between constitution and reflexivity

Representative government typically operates with a clear separation between rulers and ruled, opposing system to lifeworld, state to civil society, power to norms, steering to participation, effectiveness to identity, ationality to conventionality, and so forth. Recent discussions of reflexive modernity and network society challenge these oppositions. A wide range of models of 'joint up government' and 'good governance' are appearing, covering the whole terrain from the local to the global, and advocating the dissolution of the oppositions inherent to the constitutional framework of representative government.

Representative democracy is increasingly accused of undermining effective government and popular democracy by not being geared to handling new forms of strategic communication, network management and successful deliberation that operate on the borders of public/private, state/civil society and national/international. Deliberation, empowerment, identity, community and other democratic buzz words are today incorporated into new strategic discourses that seek to connect political authorities and elites in general with people in their capacity as employees, customers, users, citizens, etc., so as to increase the effectiveness and legitimacy of the system. This in turn implies that citizens and civil society, far from being defined apart from and in opposition to the system, become vehicles for its ability to cope with complexity and for stemming the tide of political fragmentation.

As a response to these developments, democratic theory is experiencing a deliberative turn in the same fashion as systems theory and institutionalist theory are witnessing a communicative turn. Both sides are confronting the new tension in reflexive modernity between an open and self-referential political system, and a self-governing and self-reflexive political community. Elites try to enhance systems effectiveness by incorporating ever more people and institutions into the strategic articulation and programming of decision and action. However, reflexive individuals in the community often tend to resist such incorporating strategies by insisting on the primacy of their everyday political conversation as oriented towards gaining understanding more than acquiring success. They do not want to be pre-programmed to participate directly in strategic decision and action. They want to engage more spontaneously by building public spaces, socialities and networks in which one

can experiment with novel kinds of political decision and action which are reflexive but not yet rationalized and incorporated into the system as strategic communication. In so far as they want to exercise influence, they will typically do it without having to give up on their conventionality, ethics and normative orientations. Such undertakings tend to provoke and annoy elites in the system, who want individuals to help them provide the system with the wholeness, coherence and effectiveness that it requires.

The two turns are voiced in the rhetoric of most organizations today, be they public, private or voluntary, or national, international or global. Both types of analysis see themselves as necessary for answering the critical question of how the system can connect with reflexive modern individuals and get them involved in solving common concerns. However, whereas deliberative theory is worried about the reasonability and authenticity of reflexive individuals when they construct new political terrains beyond the constitution, systems theory shows more concern of how to get them to contribute to the effective partnering within and between systems operating across constitutionalised domains. The conference will aim at making this new tension between system and community more explicit by inviting scholars from both traditions to join the discussion of how to re-assess the boundaries between strategic communication and ordinary discourse in the network society of reflexive modernity.

<i>Thursday 20. March</i>	
1000-1015	Welcome, Henrik Bang
1015-1215	John Dryzek: Discursive Democracy and the Escape from Constitutionalism
1215-1315	Lunch
1315-1515	Michael Saward: New modes of political representation
1515-1530	coffee break
1530-1730	Workshops with Dryzek, Saward and Newman as convenors
1900-	Dinner
<i>Friday 21. March</i>	
0900-1100	Janet Newman: Participation, citizenship and governance
1100-1115	coffee break
1115-1315	Henrik Bang: Culture governance and the politics of the ordinary
1315-1415	Lunch
1415-1700	Democracy after governance: panel discussion with Dryzek, Newman, Saward and Bang

Deadline for registration: March 7, 2003

Contact: <http://www.polforsk.dk/Tilmeldinger/tilmeld-demgov.htm>