

Democratic Futures and Sustainable Possibilism

Panel Chairs:

- Azucena Morán, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, azucena.moran@iass-potsdam.de
- Co-chair: Hans Asenbaum, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, hans.asenbaum@iass-potsdam.de

Abstract

Current times are characterized by two apparently unrelated yet strongly interdependent crises: the autocratization wave and the ecological crisis. While an ever-growing number of democratic innovations and new participatory spaces have attempted to respond to the challenges of established forms of democratic governance, and the ongoing ecological crisis has steered new policies for environmental protection and climate change mitigation worldwide, efforts have seem to be insufficient. As crises always demand a non-linearity of time in which the future breaks into the present, this panel sets out to investigate the democratic potential of imagining democratic and sustainable futures in order to react to this double crisis. We believe that the key to the future of democratic, just, and sustainable societies lies in understanding how democratic innovations and participatory spaces can contribute to dealing with ecological challenges. As democratic futures depend on meeting achievable yet ambitious goals towards sustainability, we ask: what would a green democracy look like and how can participatory politics lead to democratic futures and sustainable possibilism?

We welcome theoretical and empirical papers that raise (but are not limited to) questions such as: Are established participatory institutions capable of dealing with future socio-environmental challenges or do new participatory spaces need to emerge? How can future generations be included in current decision-making processes? More generally, the panel will ask what the future of democracy will look like. What do current trends of democratic innovation on the one hand and technocratic tendencies on the other say about the future of democracy? How can the radical democratic politics of grass-roots movements generate democratic futures? And what functions do utopias fulfil in creating democratic and sustainable futures?

To submit a Paper proposal, you need to create a MyECPR account (if you don't already have one) and send the following information to Azucena Morán and Hans Asenbaum by **1 February**:

- your name, academic affiliation and email address
- a title for your paper
- an abstract of up to 500 words
- 3-8 keywords