The Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance is the world-leading centre for the study of deliberative democratic theory and practice. It is based in the Faculty of Business, Government and Law at the University of Canberra.

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2019 is our Centre’s sixth year at the University of Canberra. In these six years, the Centre has grown from a small group of four staff members to a team of seventeen academic staff, research assistants, and PhD students conducting research that goes to the heart of some of the most pressing issues democracies (and autocracies!) face today.

In such a short period, we published nine books and over seventy journal articles, attracted over $5.5 million worth of research grants including two Australian Research Council Discovery Projects, a Laureate Fellowship, a Future Fellowship and a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award. Our members’ academic and public engagement contributions were honoured with prestigious prizes in Australia and overseas. Indeed, the University of Canberra, through the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, has been a good home to us.

In many ways, 2019 was also a year of transition. Some of our research projects have come to an end, and so we had to say farewell to postdoctoral research fellows and research assistants. We also invested more time in enhancing our Centre’s teaching and outreach capacity, as well as developing stronger partnerships with the wider Canberra community. The University of Canberra reaffirmed its commitment to further building our capacity by allocating strategic funds to us that will enable appointment of two Deliberative Democracy Postdoctoral Fellows and one PhD student in the new year.

Amidst the changes we are experiencing, we are proud to say that our culture of academic kindness, enthusiasm and hospitality remains intact. Our Centre is turning over a new leaf in 2020, and we thank you – our collaborators, associates, and friends – for your encouragement and support through the years.
As research projects wrap up, publications begin to multiply.

Books

Democracy in a Time of Misery: From Spectacular Tragedy to Deliberative Action
Nicole Curato
Oxford University Press

Democracy in a Time of Misery: From Spectacular Tragedy to Deliberative Action investigates how democratic politics can unfold in creative and unexpected ways even at the most trying of times. Drawing on three years of fieldwork in disaster-affected communities in Tacloban City, Philippines, this book presents ethnographic portraits of how typhoon survivors actively perform their suffering to secure political gains. This book is based on Nicole’s Discovery Early Career Researcher Award funded by the Australian Research Council.

Deliberative Global Governance
John Dryzek, Quinlan Bowman, Jonathan Kuyper, Jonathan Pickering, Jensen Sass and Hayley Stevenson
Cambridge University Press

This short book, the first in a new Cambridge Elements Series on Earth System Governance, explores the prospects for a deliberative approach that puts effective, inclusive, and transformative communication at the heart of global governance. The publication presents a range of proposals for reforming existing global institutions and creating new institutions to render the global deliberative system more democratically legitimate and effective in addressing urgent global problems such as poverty, climate change and violent conflict.

Journal Articles


We noted two 2019 books in last year’s annual report, John Dryzek and Jonathan Pickering, The Politics of the Anthropocene and André Bächtiger and John Parkinson (Adjunct Professor), Mapping and Measuring Deliberation, both published by Oxford University Press.
PUBLICATIONS


**Book Chapters**


**Interviews**


**Republished**

John Dryzek’s *Conflict and Choice in Resource Management: The Case of Alaska,* published in 1985, was republished by Routledge in 2019!

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**(Re-)Introducing: The Journal of Deliberative Democracy**

Our Centre is now the home of *The Journal of Deliberative Democracy,* formerly the Journal of Public Deliberation. Led by our very own Nicole Curato, the journal will be launched in September 2020 featuring a solid line-up of research articles and commentaries. The journal is co-edited with Åbo Akademi University’s Kim Strandberg and University of Stuttgart’s André Bächtiger.

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We’re still vlogging! We have a dedicated YouTube page featuring the latest books of our staff and visitors. Check it out [here](#).
GRANTS AND PRIZES

Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development

Jonathan Pickering is an investigator on a research project funded by the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (Formas). The four-year, A$1.5 million project, entitled ‘National implementation of global goals: Coherence between Nationally Determined Contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals’ is co-led by the Stockholm Environment Institute and Linköping University. Jonathan will be leading one of four country case studies under the project (along with studies in Sweden, Fiji and Colombia), examining synergies and tensions between Australia’s commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Rules-Based Order in Southeast Asia

Nicole Curato, together with colleagues Ross Tapsell (Australian National University) and Jonathan Corpus Ong (University Massachusetts-Amherst) are leading the #DisinformationTracker project which examines the changing face of fake news and disinformation in Southeast Asia. After a successful pilot during the 2019 mid-term elections in the Philippines, the team will extend their case studies to Indonesia and Malaysia in 2020.

This project is funded by a major grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The public report published last May has gained global attention with featured articles in Buzzfeed by prizewinning tech reporter Craig Silverman, in the LA Times, as well as the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists!

Legitimacy of Mini-Publics

Simon Niemeyer is one of the co-investigators in André Bächtiger’s brand new German Research Foundation Grant on how mini-publics must be designed to increase their legitimacy with non-participating citizens. Our associate Sofie Marien (KU Leuven) and summer school alumnae Saskia Goldberg (University of Stuttgart) are also part of the project.

Irish Citizens’ Assembly on Gender Equality

Simon Niemeyer is collaborating with the Irish dream team of Jane Suiter and David Farrell evaluating and analysing the Irish Citizens’ Assembly on Gender Equality. It will be the first major road test of the methods for evaluating deliberative reasoning he has been developing and presenting as part of his European speaking tour this year. There are also plans afoot to develop a similar Assembly on gender equality in Australia in conjunction with the 50/50 Foundation at the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra.

Research Team of the Year Prize

The Faculty of Business, Government and Law awarded our Centre the Research Team of the Year prize for our intellectual leadership for scholars and practitioners of deliberative democracy around the world.

Clay Morgan Prize

John S. Dryzek and Jonathan Pickering’s The Politics of the Anthropocene is awarded the 2019 Clay Morgan Prize of the Western Political Science Association (USA) for best book in environmental political theory.

Honourable mention

The deliberative democracy community is growing all over the world. We gave it our best effort to be part of these exciting conversations.

This year we continued to presented our work in a variety of national and international workshops, and disciplinary conferences including the annual conferences of Australian Political Studies Association (APSA), American Political Science Association (APSA), British Political Studies Association (PSA), European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), and for the first time we digitally participated in the deliberative democracy panel of the Russian Political Science Association (RPSA).

A postcard from Wrocław

Our active involvement to the Standing Group on Democratic Innovations continues, with Nicole, Selen and Simon coming to Wrocław in full force to present papers, convene panels, serve as discussants, and spark joy at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference.

Our Centre hosted a reception to celebrate women in Democratic Innovations with no less than former American Political Science Association President Professor Jane Mansbridge as guest of honour. This event was co-hosted by Participedia via Edana Beuvaais (Harvard), and the Standing Group on Democratic Innovations with Sofie Marien and Lala Muradova (KU Leuven) and André Bächtiger (University of Stuttgart).

Australia

Nardine Alnemr
Presenter
After Liberalism? Populism and the Future of Democracy
Deakin University

Nardine Alnemr
Solen Ercan
Presenters
Political Organisations and Participation Workshop
Australian National University

Jane Alver
Speaker
Public Sector Women in Leadership Summit
Canberra

Nicole Curato
Panellist
Women in the Era of Strongmen
Lowy Institute

John Dryzek
Jonathan Pickering
Jensen Sass
Australian Political Theory and Philosophy Conference
University of Canberra

Simon Niemeyer
Green Institute Conference on Cultivating Democracy
Canberra

Jonathan Pickering
Navigating the Backlash against Global Law and Institutions; Australian Perspectives, Australian National University

Jonathan Pickering
Australasian Aid Conference
Australian National University

Jonathan Pickering
Jensen Sass
Francesco Veri
Presenter
Australian Political Studies Association Conference
Flinders University

Emerson Sanchez
Speaker
Global Forum on Environmental Disasters
University of Sydney

Jensen Sass
Paper presentation
The Australian Sociological Association Meeting
University of Western Sydney

Belgium

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Meta-Forum Institute Public Lecture
KU Leuven

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Crisis of Democracy, Crisis of Communication
Leuven Town Hall

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Expert Seminar on Media and Democracy
Belgian Royal Academy for Sciences and Arts

Simon Niemeyer
Speaker
Consequences of Democratic Deliberation Workshop
Catholic University of Louvain

Simon Niemeyer
Speaker
Democratic Renewal in Times of Polarization
KU Leuven
CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS

Canada

John Dryzek
Speaker
Future Earth/CFAR Workshop on Sustainability in the Digital Era
Montreal

Finland

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Public Lecture on the Future-Sensitivity of Democracy
Turku City Library

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Crisis of Democracy, Crisis of Communication
Leuven Town Hall

Nicole Curato
Panelist
Roundtable on the Participation in Long-Term Decision-Making Project
University of Turku

France

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Centre for International Studies Seminar Series
Sciences Po, Paris

Germany

Nardine Alnemr
Paper Presenter
Annual Conference of the German Communication Association’s Division “Digital Communication”
Free University

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Political and Economic Sciences Seminar Series
Heinrich Schmid University

Simon Niemeyer
Keynote speaker
Annual Meeting for the Mercator Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change
Berlin

Hong Kong

John Dryzek
Speaker
A Deliberative Response to the Crisis of Democracy
Chinese University of Hong Kong

John Dryzek
Speaker
Symposium on Confucian Political Meritocracy
City University of Hong Kong

Ireland

Simon Niemeyer
Department of Politics and International Relations Seminar Series
University College Dublin

Mexico

Jonathan Pickering
Paper presenter
Mexico Conference on Earth System Governance
National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Oaxaca

The Netherlands

Simon Niemeyer
Centre for the Study of Democratic Cultures and Politics Research Colloquium
University of Groningen

Poland

Nicole Curato
Selen Ercan
Simon Niemeyer
Paper Presenters
European Consortium of Political Research General Conference
University of Wroclaw

Portugal

John Dryzek
Speaker
The Changing Politics of the Earth
University Institute of Lisbon

John Dryzek
Keynote Speaker
Inaugural Conference of the COST Network on Argumentation and Public Policy Analysis
Lisbon
CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS

Singapore

Nicole Curato
Representation in Southeast Asia Workshop
National University of Singapore

Sweden

Jonathan Pickering
Presenter
Environmental Politics, Policy and Learning Seminar
Stockholm University

Simon Niemeyer
Department of Politics Seminar
Uppsala University

United Kingdom

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Political Studies Association
Annual Conference
Nottingham Trent University

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Democracy, the digital, and the public sphere
University of Westminster

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Department of Politics and International Relations Seminar Series
University of Southampton

Nicole Curato
Speaker
Deliberative Mini-Publics: A Solution for the Crisis of Democracy or Wishful Thinking?
University of Newcastle

Selen Ercan
Speaker
Participedia Partners Conference
University of Sussex

Selen Ercan
Panelist
Democracy in crisis? Democratic innovations and the future of democratic politics
University of Sussex

United States

Nicole Curato
John Dryzek
Presenters
American Political Science Association Conference
Washington, DC
ACADEMIC EVENTS

Participedia and the Politics of the Anthropocene are the key focus areas of academic events we hosted this year.

Using Participedia for Democracy Research: A Roundtable Discussion
University of Canberra

Convened by Selen Ercan, this roundtable featured scholars who use Participedia as a data source for researching democratic innovations and citizen engagement. The roundtable brought together 20 scholars of deliberative democracy and democratic innovations. Speakers included Edana Beauvais (Harvard), Simon Niemeyer (University of Canberra) and Francesco Veri (University of Canberra).
Earthly Entanglements: Politics in the Anthropocene
University of Canberra

The conference on ‘Earthly Entanglements: Politics in the Anthropocene’, hosted by our Centre and co-sponsored by the Sydney Environment Institute, brought around forty researchers together from a range of disciplines to discuss the political implications of the idea that humans have changed the planet’s life-support systems so much that the Earth has entered a new geological epoch.

Speakers included Lisa Disch (University of Michigan), Cristina Inoue (University Brasilia) and Marit Hammond (Keele University) and a range of interstate and Canberra-based speakers.

Transforming Australia’s Resource and Energy Governance
Adelaide

Jonathan Pickering co-convened a workshop on ‘Transforming Australia’s Resource and Energy Governance’ along with colleagues from Flinders University and the University of Sydney. The workshop, sponsored by the Australian Political Studies Association, was an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to reflect on recent experiences of success and failure in energy, mining and water governance and to identify opportunities and obstacles for transformation towards more sustainable practices.

Mexico Conference on Earth System Governance
Oaxaca

Jonathan Pickering co-organised the Earth System Governance Project’s annual conference for 2019, which was held in Oaxaca, Mexico. The event, hosted by the National Autonomous University of Mexico and involving around 240 participants, addressed the theme of ‘Urgent transformations and earth system governance: towards sustainability and justice’.

Australian Political Theory and Philosophy Conference
University of Canberra


Feasibility and Poverty
Australian National University

With the Centre for Moral, Social and Political Theory at Australian National University, the Centre co-sponsored this workshop. John Dryzek presented ‘Democratizing Global Justice’, Ana Tanasoca presented ‘Democratic Altruism’ (both of these papers were co-authored by John and Ana).
Our decade-long tradition of Tuesday morning tea continues, followed by seminars from local and international speakers about deliberative democracy and much more.

**February 12**
Paul Kenny, Australian National University  
Situation Normal: Populism from Antiquity to the Age of Trump

**February 19**
André Bächtiger, University of Stuttgart  
Towards a New Deliberative Quality: From Unitary and Idealized to Pluralistic and Re-Politicized Visions of Deliberative Democracy

**February 26**
Andreas Schäfer, Humboldt University  
Fast Track or Wrong Track: Heuristics in Deliberative Systems

**February 26**
Kari de Pryck, University of Geneva  
Building International Epistemic Authority: The Case of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

**March 5**
George Varughese, Niti Foundation  
Deliberation in Transitions: A Practitioner’s Reflections from Nepal and Afghanistan

**March 5**
David Farrell, University College Dublin  
Measuring Epistemic Deliberation on Polarized Issues: The Case of Abortion Provision in Ireland

**March 12**
Hendrik Wagenaar, King’s College London  
Compromised Democracy: Citizen Participation in the Age of Finance Capitalism

**March 19**
Víctor Ori Valgarðsson, University of Southampton  
Turnout Decline in Western Europe: Apathy or Alienation?

**April 2**
Pierrick Chalaye, Kei Nishiyama, University of Canberra  
Wendy Russell, Double Arrow Consulting  
Deliberation in Schools

**April 2**
Sara Drury, Wabash College  
Rhetoric of Expertise and Local Knowledge in Citizen’s Juries on Wind Farm Development

**June 4**
Simon Niemeyer, University of Canberra  
Reasoning Together: Understanding and Measuring the Deliberativeness of a Situation

**June 4**
Min Reuchamps, Catholic University of Louvain  
Designing Permanent Deliberative Democracy: The Ostbelgien Modell in Belgium

**July 2**
John Parkinson, Maastricht University  
Inclusion and the Meta-Conversation: Structural Topic Modelling the Scottish Independence Referendum

**August 6**
Jensen Sass, University of Canberra  
Backstage Orchestration: The Problem of the Corporation in the Public Sphere

**August 13**
Annika Werner, Australian National University  
How Do Voters Want to be Represented? An Investigation in How Parties Can Strengthen Democracy

**October 22**
Jonathan Pickering, University of Canberra  
Democratic Transformations in Earth System Governance

**November 5**
Mary (Molly) F. Scudder, Purdue University  
Operationalizing Democratic Listening

**November 12**
Thais Choucair, The Federal University of Minas Gerais  
(Non) Reciprocity Across the System: The Case of Abortion in Brazil

**November 26**
Walden Bello, State University of New York in Binghamton  
Why Am I Engaged?

**November 26**
Molly Scudder, Purdue University  
John Dryzek, Henrik Bang and David Marsh, University of Canberra  
Can We Design a Directly Representative Democracy?

**December 3**
Claudia Chwalisz, OECD  
Institutionalising Deliberative Mini-Publics in Public Decision-Making
VISITORS

This year, Canberra was home to eleven scholars from around the world.

Australia
Carolyn Hendriks, Australian National University

Europe
André Bächtiger, University of Stuttgart
Claudia Chwalisz, OECD
Kari De Pryck, University of Geneva
David Farrell, University College Dublin
Andreas Schaefer, Humboldt University
Viktor Orri Valgarðsson, Southampton University

North America
Sara Drury, Wabash College
Molly Scudder, Purdue University

South America
Thaís Choucair, Federal University of Minas Gerais
Filipe Motta, Federal University of Minas Gerais

Claudia Chwalisz is this year’s recipient of the University of Canberra’s Distinguished International Visitor Prize.


Visitors Testimonials

Thaís Choucair
The Federal University of Minas Gerais

In the first three months of my visit to the Centre, I was able to make great progress in my PhD through discussions and feedback with professors, researchers and other PhD students. The Centre promotes an excellent exchange of research experiences and theoretical perspectives. Seminars, weekly morning tea, doctoral student chats are some examples of activities that have allowed a huge improvement in my PhD development, as well as ideas and planning for new publications.

David Farrell
University College Dublin

It was wonderful to spend a few days (too few for me!) at the Centre, which is seen rightly as the mecca for the study of deliberative democracy today. I was delighted to have had an opportunity to spend valuable time with colleagues there, notably Nicole and Simon with whom I am in the process of collaborating on a number of fronts. I was grateful for the opportunity to present some of the findings of our research on the Irish citizens’ assembly process at the Centre’s seminar series — the feedback was extremely helpful. And I am grateful to the Centre for arranging for me to give a well-attended public talk in Old Parliament House as part of their Museum of Australian Democracy series. I look forward to other visits in the future.
VISITORS

Molly Scudder
Purdue University

My three months as a visiting scholar at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance have been extremely productive and generative thanks to the engagement and generosity of the community of scholars working here. Between the weekly morning teas, research seminars, and working lunches, I have had numerous opportunities to discuss my work and develop new collaborations with colleagues at the Centre. I think of the Centre as an idea accelerator. The collaborative conditions and world-class expertise you’ll find here allow ideas to grow and develop much faster than anywhere else!

Viktor Orri Valgarðsson
Southampton University

I’ve had a fantastic time visiting the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance. Getting to know the good people here has been wonderful and discussing our different ideas about democracy, its current status and way forward has been really stimulating. It’s been great to feel how willing everyone has been to help out with my work, read my drafts and talk about my ideas and findings. The interest that senior academics have shown in me and my work, and the feedback and opportunities for collaboration they have provided, has been particularly rewarding and is by no means a given in an academic environment. I am also especially thankful for the warmth and hospitality I’ve received from everyone here; whether in terms of afternoon drinks, philosophical soup-parties or driving around the coast for some paddle boarding and kangaroo patting! I trust and hope I will see you all again before too long, whether on this side of the world or the other!

TEACHING

Our Centre teaches in the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis’s Master of Public Administration (MPA) programme and provides guest lectures to Australian universities and international partners. Our PhD students also collaborated with the Faculty of Business, Government and Law’s Jean-Paul Gagnon to teach in the module Policy Instruments.

Policy Instruments: Introduction to Public Policy
Faculty of Business, Government and Law, University of Canberra
Nardine Alnemr, Pierrick Chalaye and Emerson Sanchez

Introduction to Deliberative Democracy
Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra
Nicole Curato

Master of Public Administration, Management Dissertation Unit
Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis
Convened by Selen Ercan

Interpretive Research Methods
Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra
Selen Ercan

Interdisciplinary Research: Prospects and Challenges
Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra
Selen Ercan, Jonathan Pickering

Good Policy Requires a Good Public Sphere
Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra
Selen Ercan
TEACHING

Social Movements: Actors and Arenas of Democracy
Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
Selen Ercan

What are the PhD Examiners Looking For?
Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra
Selen Ercan, John Dryzek

Policymaking in Times of Crisis: Cases in Contemporary Public Policy
Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
Emerson Sanchez

Community Engagement Webinar, Climatelab.org
Simon Niemeyer

Academic Writing Methodology Lab, KU Leven
Nicole Curato

Contemporary Social Issues Department of Sociology
Mindanao State University
Nicole Curato

Studying the Digital Public Sphere through Interpretive Research
Digital lecture, Federal University of Minas Gerais
Nicole Curato, Selen Ercan

The Changing Politics of the Earth
Digital lecture, Uppsala University
John Dryzek

Good Policy is Deliberative and Democratic Process
Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis
John Dryzek

Deliberative Democracy and Environmental Governance
Fenner School of Environment and Society
Jonathan Pickering

Deliberative Democracy and Environmental Policy
Environment and Resource Economics, University of Canberra
Jonathan Pickering

ENGAGING WITH THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY

They say Canberra is a bubble, but our experience tells us otherwise. Our engagement with the Canberra community tells us that we can look to the world for inspiration and collaborate locally to make things happen.

Bringing citizens into the heart of political debate: Ireland’s constitutional mini-publics
Our Centre collaborated with Democracy 2025 and the Museum of Australian Democracy to discuss David Farrell’s work on the Irish Citizens’ Assembly. Nicole Curato and Simon Niemeyer joined the panel discussion. The event was well-attended, with plenty of participation for the ACT and Federal public service, who were on hand to hear how relatively modest deliberative events and amplify their effects to achieve big scale impacts and improve political discourse.

A Citizens’ Agenda for the ACT? Lessons from Belgium’s Permanent Citizens’ Council
Min Reuchamps from the Catholic University of Louvain was in Canberra to talk about the permanent deliberative assembly in Belgium’s German-speaking community. The Citizens’ Council is composed of a rotating set of 24 randomly selected citizens who will work alongside the existing 25 elected representatives, setting agendas, supporting deliberation, and holding MPs to account. This event was hosted by the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis’ Canberra Conversation series. Simon Niemeyer, Carolyn Hendriks (ANU), Luca Belgiono-Nettis (newDemocracy) and Beth Slatyer (Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy) joined the discussion.
EGNAGING WITH THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY

Deliberative Democratic prospects?
International and Australian experience

Australia has been an early adopter in democratic innovations but faces challenges in scaling up these reforms to the federal level. The hour-long panel discussion at the Museum of Australian Democracy featured Claudia Chwalisz from the OECD with reactions from Nicole Curato, Beth Slatyer (Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy) and Damian Carmichael (Department of Industry, Science and Innovation). The panel discussed lessons from OECD countries and reflected on the role, opportunities and limits of these national forums in Australia. This forum is part of Simon, John and Nicole’s ARC Discovery Project on the Meta-Study of Public Deliberation.

Towards Earth System Governance:
Planetary Politics in the 21st Century
University of Canberra

The Centre hosted a public lecture by Frank Biermann, research professor of Global Sustainability Governance at Utrecht University. Professor Biermann is the founder of the Earth System Governance project. He spoke on how a planetary perspective can change the way we think about governing problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

Reshaping Planetary Politics: Governance and Activism in the Anthropocene
University of Canberra

Is democracy capable of dealing with the risks that humanity faces in the Anthropocene? Lisa Disch (University of Michigan), Cristina Inoue (University of Brasilia), Lauren Rickards (RMIT University), James Trezise (Australian Conservation Foundation) and Tim Hollo (Greens candidate for Canberra and Executive Director of the Green Institute) discussed ways of rethinking contemporary politics and social movements.

This forum is part of John Dryzek’s ARC Laureate Project.

Project Deliberation in Schools

Led by Pierrick Chalaye and Kei Nishiyama with Wendy Russell (Double Arrow Consulting), the deliberation in schools project aims to build capacity for school children to listen, reason, think, communicate and collaborate so they can be agents of deliberative democratisation. The program engaged with Ainslie Primary School and Hawker College with plans to scale up the programme in the coming years. This project is funded by the International Association for Public Participation.
ENGAGING WITH THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY

Solidarity with the children of the Anthropocene

Non-deliberative acts may have deliberative consequences? Snapshots of solidarity as we join a series of global strikes on climate change. #SchoolStrike4Climate

MULTIMEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

We shared our ideas on print, in the airwaves, and on digital.

Public Report


Op-Eds and Blogs

MULTIMEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

Quoted or work featured in media reports and op-eds

2. Alver, Jane. Researchers call to increase LGBTQ representation in agricultural studies. Devex. 1 April.
5. Curato, Nicole. The Philippines midterm polls to test Duterte’s grip on power. Al Jazeera. 12 May.

On the airwaves

4. Curato, Nicole. Democracy and Disinformation, Rules Based Audio by The Lowy Institute. 27 August.

FINANCIAL TIMES

“Deliberative democracy is just what politics needs”

The Financial Times draws attention to the Centre’s 12 Key Findings

‘Deliberative democracy is just what politics needs,’ argues the Editorial Board of the Financial Times. In this piece published last August, FT drew attention to the ‘respectable academic program’ underpinning deliberative democracy. This links to the Centre’s widely-circulated piece ‘Twelve Key Findings in Deliberative Democracy Research’ published in Daedalus.

Deliberative democratisation of talk shows?

Nicole continues to produce and host television specials for CNN Philippines. Her approach is deliberative and participatory, where she invites her guests from marginalised communities to co-design the show to amplify alternative perspectives. This year, she also used this platform to draw attention to the findings of her research on disinformation and democracy, as well as her recent work on deliberative peacebuilding.
PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES

Deliberative democracy is a global project. Here’s a snapshot of our connections in Australia and around the world.

Earth System Governance Project

Several members of the Centre are involved in the Earth System Governance Project, the world’s largest network of social scientists working on environmental governance. Jonathan Pickering serves as a member of the Project’s Scientific Steering Committee, co-convenes its working group on democracy, and co-organised the Project’s annual conference in 2019.

Federal University of Minas Gerais

We are working closely with the Federal University of Minas Gerais on a range of projects. This year, two PhD students—Thais Choucair and Filipe Motto—are visiting Canberra to write their dissertations, present their work, and join the summer school in February. Early this year, Nicole Curato and Selen A. Ercan delivered a digital lecture about interpretive research methods in studying the digital public sphere for the Brazilian National Science and Technology Institute for Digital Democracy. One of our closest collaborators is Ricardo F. Mendonça, who is working with us on several academic projects, including the Global Citizens Assembly on Genome Editing.

Standing Group on Democratic Innovations

Nicole Curato and Sofie Marien (KU Leuven) are now co-chairs of the European Consortium for Political Research’s Standing Group on Democratic Innovations. The standing group coordinates activities related to the study of democratic innovations, with the aim of fostering an epistemic community of scholars working towards understanding how democratic innovations can improve our politics.

Part of the steering committee are André Bächtiger (University of Stuttgart), Kimmo Grönlund (Åbo Akademi) and Jane Suiter (Dublin City University).

The Centre plays an active part in the Standing Group by convening panels and joint sessions with international collaborators.

Democratic Innovations and Legitimacy Research Group

We stepped up our partnership with KU Leuven’s #DemoInno group this year! They served as host for Nicole’s three-month visiting fellowship where she delivered a series of lectures and workshops with PhD students. Meanwhile, Selen Ercan is co-convening the ECPR Joint Sessions next year in Toulouse with Andrea Felicetti. Andrea is also leading a major grant application for the Global Citizens’ Assembly. And their PhD student Lala Muradova — who is currently collaborating with Nicole and Simon — is visiting us next year! There are more connections here we need to do a social network analysis!!
Participedia

This year we continued to strengthen our partnership with Participedia. The brand new Participedia site now has 88 Australian cases of democratic innovations documented by our Associate Lucy J. Parry and many other contributors. The variety of cases provide a valuable insight into the state of democratic innovation in Australia and increasingly include important lessons that can be learnt from deliberative practice.

In June, Selen Ercan joined Lucy at the Participedia Partners Conference at the Institute for Development Studies in Brighton where they presented their ongoing work on using Participedia for qualitative research.

The Partners Conference brought together 65 participants from 13 different countries to share current research and around Participedia and participation more broadly. It also included a public event where our own Selen Ercan joined an esteemed panel to share insights on the perceived crisis of democracy.

International Ethics Research Group

John Dryzek, Jonathan Pickering and Ana Tanasoca are members of the International Ethics Research Group convened by ANU and the University of New South Wales Canberra. The group meets regularly to discuss work-in-progress papers. Presentations by Centre members this year included a paper by Ana and John on ‘Democratic Altruism.’

GenePool Productions

We are collaborating with the Emmy award-winning filmmakers to convene the world’s first truly Global Citizens Assembly on Genome Editing. Led by Simon, John, and Nicole, together with Professor Dianne Nicol from the University of Tasmania, we are developing the technique of ‘deliberative documentary’ as a mechanism to scale up the effects of citizen deliberation around the world, on a topic that provokes discussions on ethics, morality, and scientific benefit and harm.

Check out https://www.globalca.org/ for more information.

DeliberateACT

Collaboration between the Centre and local ACT practitioners, government and civil society engaged in public participation and policy making continued in 2019 via involvement in DeliberateACT, which held six events. These included involvement in a public event hosted by the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in March, with David Farrell reporting on the impact of the Irish Citizens Assembly. The question of whether similar impacts can be achieved in Australia was an important theme, which was raised in another co-hosted event with Claudia Chwalisz presenting on developments in Europe, also at Old Parliament House.
A SOCIAL SPACE

Keeping a vibrant social space is always our proud achievement. We made lots of fond memories this year, from a successful trek in Tasmania to a chilled out caipirinha party.
A SOCIAL SPACE
FAREWELL, WELCOME, AND CONGRATULATIONS

Farewell

We said farewell to a number of colleagues this year, including our Postdoctoral Research Fellows Ana Tanasoca and Hannah Barrowman. Ana joined the Philosophy Department of Macquarie University while Hannah will begin working full-time in the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership—a program funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We also said farewell to Kei Nishiyama as he moved back to Japan after graduating from his PhD. Kei recently received an overseas postdoctoral fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

And it really breaks our hearts to say goodbye to the ever-reliable Juliana Rocha—our Centre administrator for the past seven years. Juliana is moving to a new executive assistant post in the city. We miss her already [insert crying emoji].

Welcome

We welcomed three new colleagues this year: Francesco Veri who moved from Switzerland to join our ARC Metastudy team, Jo Wright who works from Melbourne on our Global Citizens’ Assembly project, and Adrian Fernandez, our very first intern.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our PhD students Mohammad Abdul-Hwas and Nardine Alnemr for their impressive performance in their respective confirmation seminars. Mohammad recently returned from his extensive fieldwork in Jordan to analyse the role of deliberation in the Syrian refugee crisis. Meanwhile, Nardine is making headway in her research on deliberative algorithms.

Congratulations are also in order for Simon, who recently assumed the role of Associate Dean for Research at the Faculty of Business, Government, and Law. This, officially, makes Simon our boss!
THE YEAR AHEAD

Our Centre will continue to grow as make new academic appointments. We are also looking forward to welcoming over twenty international delegates for the Fourth Deliberative Democracy Summer School in February, and more visitors throughout the year. Deepening our engagement with the Canberra community remains top on our list, as well as developing links with national and global industry partners.

As always, we are keen to hear from old and new collaborators. Ping us on Twitter, drop us an email, or send us a postcard.

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A BIG YEAR IN 2020.

None of Simon Niemeyer’s bike medals were harmed in this photo shoot.
MEMBERS

Mohammad Abdul-Hwas
PhD Candidate

Nardine Alnemr
PhD Candidate

Jane Alver
PhD Candidate

Hannah Barrowman
Postdoctoral Fellow

Pierrick Chalaye
PhD Candidate

Wendy Conway-Lamb
PhD Candidate

Selen A. Ercan
Associate Professor

Simon J. Niemeyer
Associate Professor

Kei Nishiyama
PhD Candidate

Hannah Barrowman
Postdoctoral Fellow

Pierrick Chalaye
PhD Candidate

Wendy Conway-Lamb
PhD Candidate

Selen A. Ercan
Associate Professor

Simon J. Niemeyer
Associate Professor

Kei Nishiyama
PhD Candidate

Nicole Curato
Associate Professor

John S. Dryzek
Centenary Professor and ARC Laureate Fellow

Sonya Duus
Research Fellow

Jonathan Pickering
Postdoctoral Fellow

Juliana Rocha
Research Assistant

Emerson Sanchez
PhD Candidate

Nicole Curato
Associate Professor

John S. Dryzek
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Sonya Duus
Research Fellow

Jonathan Pickering
Postdoctoral Fellow

Juliana Rocha
Research Assistant

Emerson Sanchez
PhD Candidate

Ana Tanasoca
Postdoctoral Fellow

Josephine Wright
Project Coordinator