

A group of about seven people are sitting in a circle on red chairs in a classroom or meeting room. They appear to be engaged in a discussion or a collaborative activity. The room has a wooden floor, a whiteboard, and a table with a white cloth in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Theorising the Democratic State Lecture 3: Deliberation

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~efrazer/default.htm>

http://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/site/users/efrazer/public/q_and_a/

Democratic theories, so far

- 1. The democratic principle proceeds from the autonomy principle;*
- 2. The majoritarian principle is central to democracy;*
- 3. In democracy we are represented by those who legislate and oversee the executive;*
- 4. In democracy we authorise (via selection or election) people to legislate and oversee the executive.*

Dimensions of the theory of democracy:

- *Freedom for the individual to participate in government*

But what quality and quantity of participation?

- *Majority assent or consent to decisions*

Is majoritarianism necessary or sufficient?

- *Representation in government*

What does representation imply and entail?

- *Selection and authorisation of representatives*

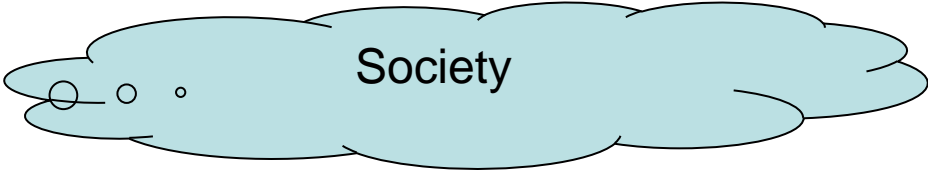
What mechanisms of selection are truly democratic?

Democratic Theory 5

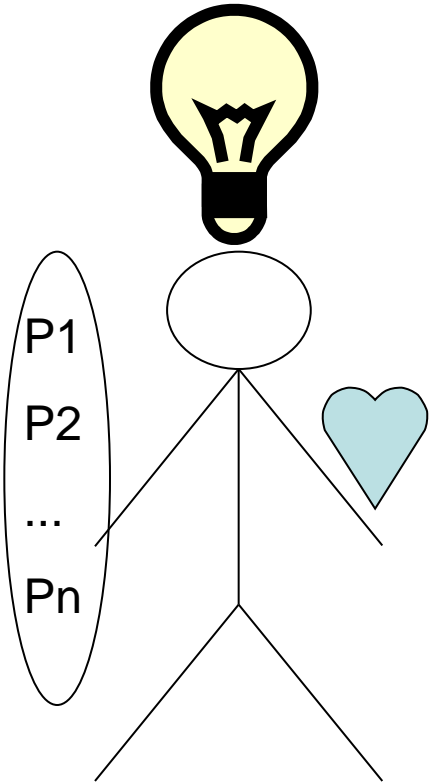
Collective self-government presupposes the idea of a shared enterprise;

The shared enterprise is greater than the sum of its present participants;

The stability of the enterprise is an interest of its members;



- O 1
- O 2
- O 3
-
- O n



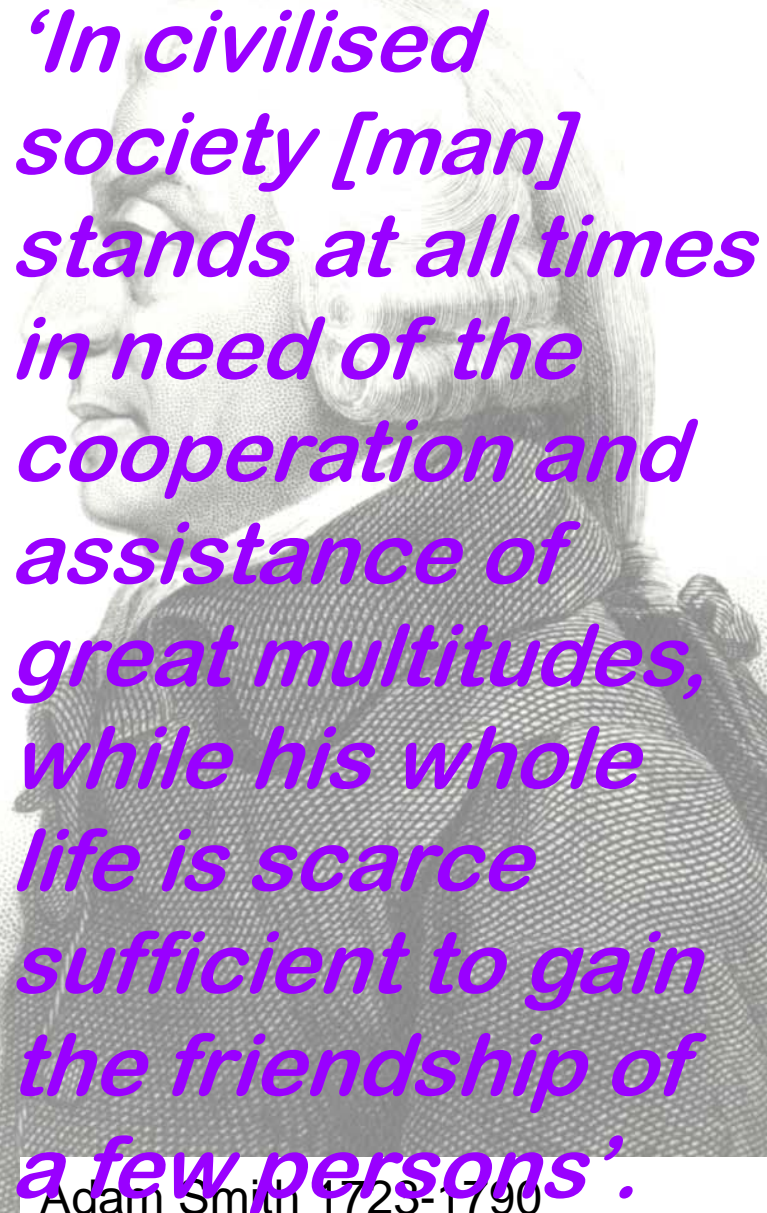
Rational Choice



Adam Smith 1723-1790

‘Give me that which I want, and you shall have this which you want ... It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages.’

Wealth of Nations ch2 pp 118-9

A black and white engraving of Adam Smith, shown in profile from the chest up. He is wearing a dark coat and a cravat. The background is a light, textured grey.

'In civilised society [man] stands at all times in need of the cooperation and assistance of great multitudes, while his whole life is scarce sufficient to gain the friendship of a few persons'.

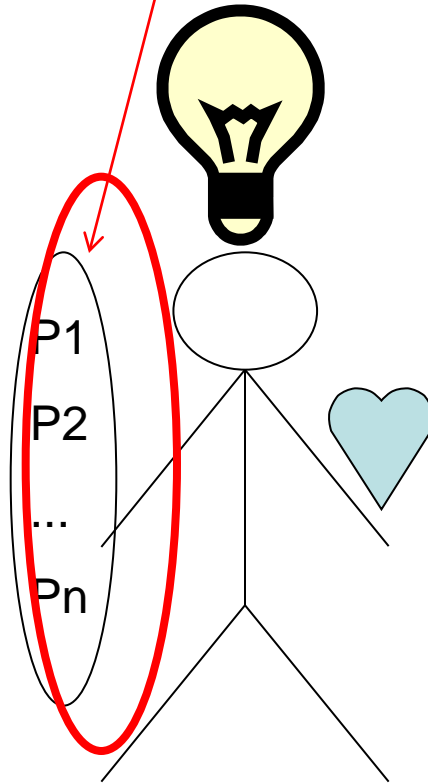
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- O 1
- O 2
- O 3
-
- O n



Preferences include preferences about the aggregate outcome; or about the effects of an aggregation of decisions on groups or populations

How are exogenously formed preferences connected with the principle of autonomy?

Political Decision Making

Deliberative Democracy

Essence of democracy is free speech

Public and collective deliberation in pluralist associational setting

Transparent logical relationship between deliberation and decision

Deliberative procedure as source of legitimacy





Jürgen
Habermas
b.1929

Ideal deliberation:

Free; between equals; reasoned;

Participants bound only by results of ideal deliberation

Aim to arrive at a rationally motivated consensus

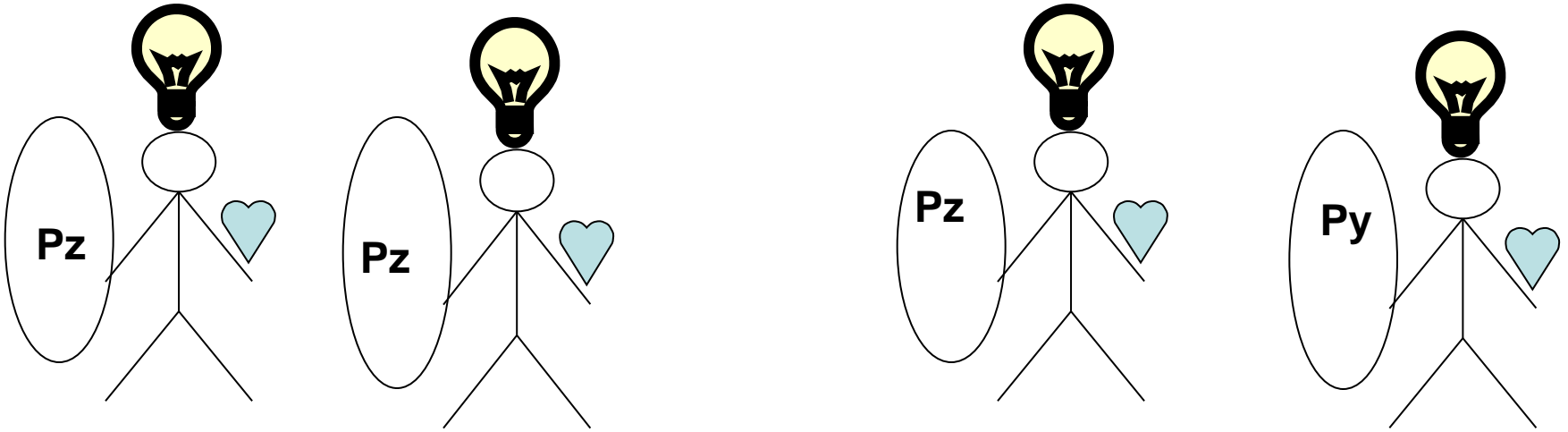
Implications from theory of deliberative democracy

- 1. If voter decision is the outcome of domination, coercion, inequality, or non-deliberative reasoning, it is not legitimate and not binding*
- 2. The democratic institution of deliberation is prior to that of the vote*
- 3. Democratic Principle: Nothing but the force of the better argument should persuade a person to act, or to change their mind*

Ideal Theory

- *the point of 'theory' is to arrive at a coherent ideal*
- *the ideal is relevant to our practical understanding and judgement because it allows us to measure the distance between it and the real world (in this sense it is a guide for action)*

Expression and justification of preferences in ideal deliberation



• Deliberative Democrats focus on the endogenous formation of preferences

Preferences in the theory of deliberative democracy

- 1. Preferences endogenous to deliberative process*
- 2. Preferences can change without threatening autonomy*
- 3. First person self interest is not a good reason for others to be persuaded by me; the deliberative participant must give reasons that are relevant to all*
- 4. Deliberation leads discussants to recognition of the agreement that underlies disagreement*
- 5. Deliberation can change the option set*

Constructive Theory

The fact that I must orient myself to the reasons for others and for all in my persuasive discourse

means that

the public social point of view is realised (articulated)

Justifications of Democracy

Normative Justification: *Human individuals should be self-governing; Individuals should have a hand in organising the structures that govern them.*

Can be Consequentialist, Deontological, or Virtue Centred

Epistemic Justification: *Democratic decisions are likely to be right*

Expressive Justification :

Democracy is justified because it expresses and realises fundamental values that are constitutive of the polity

Expressive Justification :

Democracy is justified because (and to the extent that) it expresses and realises fundamental values that are constitutive of the polity:

- *Equality of voice*
- *Freedom from coercion or domination*
- *Freedom to participate in decision*
- *Fairness of the procedure*
- *Transparency in decision making*
- *Rational or reasonable basis for decisions*
- *Collective self-government*

