



**ANNUAL WORKSHOP–DEMOCRACYNET ([HTTPS://DEMOCRACYNET.EU/](https://democracynet.eu/)) IN COOPERATION WITH
HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY’S INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Date: 20th-21st February 2026

Location: Karl Jaspers Centre, Heidelberg University <https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/centre>
(All times in CET)

FRIDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY

12AM-1PM: RECEPTION & WELCOME

**PART 1: THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES FOR DEMOCRATIC CRISIS
PHENOMENA — THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL PERSPECTIVES**

1pm-1:45: Cause or Causality? The Significance of Political Parties to Democratic “Death”

Dr Alex Prior, School of Arts and Social Sciences, London South Bank University, UK (priora3@lsbu.ac.uk)

1:45-2:30pm: How Party Politics Hinder Democratisation in Kenya and Elsewhere in Africa

Prof. Reginald M.J. Oduor, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya (rmjoduor@gmail.com)

2:30-3:15pm: The End of Party Democracy? – Electoral Marginalization of Political Parties and the Crisis of Liberal Democracy

Prof. Dr. Simon Bein, Moritz Kinskofer, M.A, Institute for Political Science, University of Regensburg, Germany (Simon.Bein@politik.uni-regensburg.de; Moritz.Kinskofer@politik.uni-regensburg.de)

3-15:3:45PM: COFFEE BREAK

3:45-4:30pm: Against Party Democracy: Challenging the Status Quo Bias in Democratic Theory

PD Dr Dannica Fleuss, Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg University, Germany (dannica.fleuss@uni-heidelberg.de)

PART II: PARTIES STILL MATTER—BUT HOW, WHERE, WHEN?

4:30-5:15pm: Do Parties Still Matter for Economic Policy in Established Democracies?

Prof. Dr. Reimut Zolnhöfer, Dr. Fabian Enger, Jan Jathe, M.A., Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg University, Germany (reimut.zolnhoefer@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de)

5:30-7:00pm Keynote by Prof. Dr. Fabio Wolkenstein, University of Vienna (public):

NAVIGATING TRADE-OFFS: THE PRECARIOUS FUTURE OF PARTY DEMOCRACY

7:30pm JOINT DINNER (Urban Kitchen, Poststrasse 36/5, 69115 Heidelberg)

SATURDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY

PART II: PARTIES STILL MATTER—BUT HOW, WHERE, WHEN? (continued)

**09:30-10:15am: Beyond the Crisis Narrative: Why Democracy Still Requires Political Parties-
Evidence from India**

*Monika Monika, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indore, India
& Department of Sociology, Boston University, Boston,
MA, USA (mnolast@bu.edu)*

**10:15-11am: Party Organization, Accountability, and Democratic Resilience in Northeast Asia.
Evidence from Mongolia, South Korea, and Taiwan**

*Prof. Dr. Aurel Croissant., Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg University, Germany; Prof. Nam Kyu Kim,
PhD.; Korea University; Jinhyeok Jang, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan
(aurel.croissant@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de)*

11-11:30AM: COFFEE BREAK

PART III: CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES TO “PARTY DEMOCRACY”

**11:30-12:15am: Do Parties Still Matter? Civil Society Networks and Political Transformation in
Indonesia**

*Dr Saskia Schäfer, Berlin Institute for Empirical Integration and Migration Research, Humboldt-Univ. Berlin,
Germany (saskia.schaefer@hu-berlin.de)*

**12:15-1pm: What kind of supranational democracy do citizens want? Evidence from Germany
and Poland**

*Dr. Franziska Maier, Institute for Social Sciences, University of Stuttgart, Germany
(franziska.maier@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de)*

1-2PM: LUNCH BREAK

2-2:45pm: Protesting the Pandemic: New challenges for democratic theory

*Dr Rod Dacombe, Head of School of Politics and Economics, King's College London, UK
(rod.dacombe@kcl.ac.uk)*

**2:45-3:30pm: Toolbox Democracy: Rethinking the Role of Traditional Politics through
Deliberative Practices in Luxembourg**

*Dr Lisa Verhasselt, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), Luxembourg
(lisa.verhasselt@liser.lu)*

3:30-4PM: CONCLUDING DISCUSSION &. NEXT STEPS