



# Liberal democracy / digital democracy

## Democracy and its current transformations

Online seminar / March 2021

Coordinated by Fernando Vallespín

The so-called “crisis” of liberal democracy is one of the most contentious issues in both political science and public opinion. Questions concerning the impact of new technologies on political communication, and the ensuing reorganization of public space; the rise of populism with the proliferation of “strong men” and parties that question some of the assumptions of liberal civic culture; the increasing technocratization of political decisions; the expansion of the supranational framework of political action; or even the effects of the global pandemic, which has challenged conventional approaches regarding how to deal with collective problems, dominate contemporary public discourse. Some take these new challenges as being symptomatic of a crisis in our traditional form of government; for others it speaks of the ways in which democracy is naturally adapting to social change without dire warnings. In this seminar, leading specialists will discuss key issues that deal with the shifting landscape of democracy today and on the road ahead.

**3** March, 6 pm (GMT+1)  
Introductory lecture  
**Fernando Vallespín**  
Catedrático de Ciencia Política.  
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid  
*Liberal democracy / digital democracy. How to restore a more deliberative public space*

**8** March, 6 pm (GMT+1)  
**Massimo La Torre**  
Professor of Philosophy of Law.  
Università “Magna Graecia” di Catanzaro  
*The dangers of populism for liberal democracy*

**10** March, 7 pm (GMT+1)  
**John Keane**  
Professor of Politics. University of Sydney and Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB)  
*A brief history of expertise, and its growing importance for democracy*

**15** March, 6 pm (GMT+1)  
**Máriam Martínez-Bascuñán**  
Profesora de Ciencia Política.  
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid  
*Post-truth, democracy and populism*  
&  
**Tõnis Saarts**  
Professor of Comparative Politics. Tallinn University  
*Political parties, the quality of democracy and the rise of populism in Central and Eastern Europe*

**18** March, 6 pm (GMT+1)  
**Wolfgang Merkel**  
Professor of Comparative Political Science and Democracy Research.  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
*Migration, Covid, climate: who governs in deep crises?*

**22** March, 6 pm (GMT+1)  
**Marta Fraile**  
Científica Titular. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, CSIC  
*Gender and democracy: rethinking equality and the backlash*

**24** March, 6 pm (GMT+1)  
**Carlos Thiebaut**  
Catedrático de Filosofía.  
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid  
*New reactive intolerance*

Free registration

[Registration link here](#)

For more info: [democracyandtolerance.org](http://democracyandtolerance.org)

The seminar will be conducted in English with simultaneous translation to Spanish

Estimated duration of each session: 90 min

Follow us     

Partner institutions



Organized by



Paseo del General Martínez Campos, 14  
28010 E- Madrid