



Richard Bellamy

Professor of Political Science, Director of the European Institute,
University College London

Democracy, Compromise and the Representation Paradox

Invitation | 10 May 2012 | 6 - 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Hertie School of Governance | Friedrichstraße 180 | 10117 Berlin

Democracy, Compromise and the Representation Paradox

Coalitions are often condemned as undemocratic and unprincipled because of the compromises they involve. Politicians are accused of betraying the commitments they made during the election. Paradoxically, proponents of this view suggest that if compromises are to be made they should be pragmatic and based on policy rather than principle. Richard Bellamy disputes this thesis and defends compromise as both principled and democratic. He distinguishes a shallow compromise based on the maximal satisfaction of exogenously defined preferences from a deep compromise resulting from reasoning on principle, and argues it proves impossible to avoid the latter. Bellamy further suggests that the obligation to compromise forms part of the ethos of democracy, whereby citizens must agree despite their disagreements. While representatives will almost certainly betray their electoral mandate if obliged to make only shallow compromises, they can legitimately engage in deep compromises for their voters when they reason as they do.

The event will be followed by a reception.

If you wish to attend please complete the attached registration form and return it to us via

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Richard Bellamy, is Professor of Political Science and Director of the European Institute at University College London. He was educated at the University of Cambridge and the European University Institute at Florence. After three years as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Nuffield

College, Oxford he went on to lectureships at Cambridge and Edinburgh and then to Chairs at the Universities of East Anglia, Reading and Essex. He has held Visiting Fellowships at Nuffield College, Oxford; the EUI in Florence and Australia National University. He was Academic Director of the European Consortium for Political Research from 2002-2006 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2002 and a member of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2008.



Commentary: Christopher Gohl is head of the German Free Democrat Party's political planning unit. Gohl is a mediator, co-founder of *Procedere* - Association for Procedural Practice, and a specialist on organized dialogue in politics. As senior consultant of IFOK, he coordinated the Regional Dialogue Forum Airport Frankfurt, Germany's largest political mediation. His recently published dissertation, *Procedural Politics: The Example Of Organized Dialogue*, is a contribution to an action theory of governance.

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Registration

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I will attend:

Name

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Accompanied by

How to find us:



Hertie School of Governance
Friedrichstraße 180 10117 Berlin

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