

March  
2019

# Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC) Global Research Update March 2019

This Update was issued on 7 March 2019. It is based on new publications and suggestions from users of the Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC) at [www.democratic-decay.org](http://www.democratic-decay.org).

Global research updates are issued in the first week of each month. They should be read in conjunction with the main bibliography on DEM-DEC (issued 24 June 2018).

[www.democratic-decay.org](http://www.democratic-decay.org)

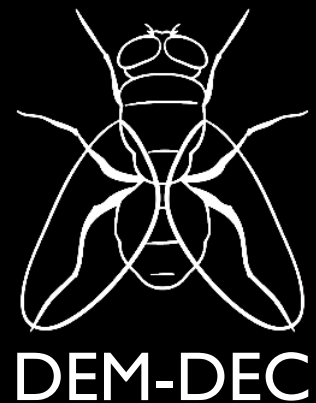
# About DEM-DEC

Created by Dr Tom Gerald Daly (Melbourne Law School) and supported by a range of leading public law and policy organisations, the Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC) is an online resource aiming to provide useful information on the deterioration of democratic rule worldwide through a mixture of curated, collaborative, and user-generated content including a Bibliography, Concept Index, Experts Database, Events Database, Teaching Materials, and Links.

DEM-DEC's core purpose is to bring scholars and policymakers together in a collaborative project to pool expertise on democratic decay, in a context where many experts are talking in silos, or past one another, where the literature is rapidly expanding, and events and projects are proliferating across the world.

[www.democratic-decay.org](http://www.democratic-decay.org)

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## Director Dr Tom Gerald Daly

Tom is an academic and consultant in the area of democracy-building, public law, and human rights.

He is Associate Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law (ECCL), Fellow at Melbourne Law School, and Co-Convenor of the Constitution Transformation Network. As a consultant he has worked on EU, Council of Europe, African Union, International IDEA and Irish government projects.

His current book project concerns the role of public law in countering 'democratic decay' worldwide. He has written on democratic decay as a columnist for the ICONnect blog and tweets @DemocracyTalk.

Recent academic publications include an article on 'Democratic Decay: Conceptualising an Emerging Research Field' (*Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*). Policy publications include a chapter on 'Democratic Decay in 2016' in International IDEA's *Annual Review of Constitution-Building* for 2016.

# Research Editor Kuan-Wei Chen

Since the end of January 2019, Kuan-Wei Chen, a doctoral researcher in law at the University of Munich, has provided excellent assistance with production of the monthly Research Update.

Kuan-Wei Chen is a doctoral student at the Faculty of Law at University of Munich (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) in Germany, and an LL.M. in Public Law at National Taiwan University (2016), with experience in a transnational law firm and the Judicial Yuan (Constitutional Court) in Taiwan. Her research interests include constitutional law, international human rights law, and democracy. Her current research focuses on the challenges of democracy in the digital era and related human rights protection issues.



## Want to Join the DEM-DEC Team?



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Positions are exclusively on a volunteer basis at present



# Partners

DEM-DEC enjoys the support of a range of partners, which are leading organisations in public law, governance, and policy worldwide:

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Constitution Transformation Network (Melbourne Law School)

Constitutionally Speaking (blog – South Africa)

Democracy Reporting International (DRI)

Democratic Erosion: A Cross-University Collaboration (USA)

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International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL) Blog

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

International Journal of Constitutional Law (I-CONnect) Blog

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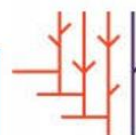
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# Have Your Say!

Send suggestions and information on new publications for the next monthly update by filling out the form at [www.democratic-decay.org](http://www.democratic-decay.org) or e-mailing [democraticdecay@gmail.com](mailto:democraticdecay@gmail.com)



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# Introduction

## The DEM-DEC Bibliography

The DEM-DEC Bibliography is provided on the Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC) at [www.democratic-decay.org](http://www.democratic-decay.org), which was launched on 25 June 2018 and which aims to provide useful information to academics and policymakers concerned with the creeping deterioration of democratic rule worldwide.

The [main Bibliography](#) (finalised on 24 June 2018) presents a global range of research on democratic decay. It has a strong focus on research by public lawyers – spanning constitutional, international and transnational law – but also includes key research from political science, as well as policy texts.

## Eighth monthly update since DEM-DEC was launched

Updates to the Bibliography are issued in the first week of each month. This is the eighth monthly update provided and was issued on Monday 4 March 2019. All updates should be read in conjunction with the main DEM-DEC bibliography.

## Comprehensiveness

It is impossible to be comprehensive given the broad scope of the subject. However, the updates here have been collated from suggestions by scholars worldwide, a broad search of publisher websites and academic journals worldwide, as well as information collated on leading blogs. Blog posts, media articles, and (with some exceptions) policy documents are not covered.

## Period covered by this update

As this is a monthly update, the main items here are from February 2019. Items suggested by DEM-DEC users include earlier material. In addition, the 'Forthcoming Research' section provides a rapidly growing list of future publications.

## Global Coverage

The Bibliography updates aim for global coverage. However, it should be borne in mind that the Bibliography, at present, collates information exclusively in the English language.

## Hyperlinks

Every effort is made to provide hyperlinks to access each text listed, or at least information on the text. Please remain mindful that some links may be broken over time.

## Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks to all who have suggested additions and sent key information for this update. A particular thanks to DEM-DEC's Research Editor, Kuan-Wei Chen, who continues to provide highly valuable assistance in compiling information for this Update.

# Key Themes from this Update

## Identifying Themes

In each monthly Update DEM-DEC Director Dr Tom Gerald Daly selects key themes. The aim is simply to provide ‘added value’ by helping users to navigate the Update, and to provide some limited commentary, especially on very recent research. Although it is impossible to capture every dimension of the issues covered in this Update, six key themes can be picked out.

### 1 Elections, Elections, Elections

A number of pieces in this Update make for essential reading as candidates begin to declare themselves for the [2020 US presidential race](#), states such as India and Poland face crucial general elections (in April/May and by November, respectively), and we brace ourselves for the upcoming European Parliament elections in May 2019 – with [President Macron’s 5 March open-letter](#) appeal to Europe’s citizens highlighting the high stakes: Barrie Sander’s ground-breaking analysis setting out a [typology of different cyber election meddling techniques](#) and examining three paradigms of international law that can frame State responses to cyber influence operations; Duncan McDonnell and Luis Cabrera’s discussion of the ‘[right-wing populism](#)’ of India’s governing BJP Party; and a special issue on [radical-right populist politics in Eastern Europe](#) edited by Ov Cristian Norocel and Gabriella Szabó concentrating on ‘soft’ factors, including the role of media, radicalization of public discourse, and the communication repertoires of radical-right forces across the region.

(Note: Check out Barrie Sanders’ cutting-edge Course Syllabus, ‘[Digital Threats to Democracy](#)’ in the DEM-DEC Teaching Section).

### 2 Is Democratic Decay an Emerging Research Field?

Self-promotion alert: On 19 February the *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law* – which has become a leading global forum for analysis of the deterioration of democracy – published a new article of mine, on ‘[Democratic Decay: Conceptualising an Emerging Research Field](#)’. The article maps democratic decay as a quasi-research field that spans multiple academic disciplines and fields. It was written as a useful explainer for scholars and policy actors, as well as a stock-taking exercise for experts in the field aimed at prompting reflection on ensuring that research remains practically useful to those who need to understand democratic decay. An [accessible summary of the article](#) was published by Democratic Audit UK on 4 March 2019 as ‘Democratic Decay: The Threat with a Thousand Names’.

(Note: The article develops the work and analysis contained in the [Concept Index](#) on DEM-DEC).

### 3 Or is Democratic Decay Just a ‘Cottage Industry’?

A policy piece caught my eye in early February. In a [column for \*The American Interest\*](#) (highlighted in the ever-useful [NED Democracy Digest](#)) the analyst Josef Joffe – speaking to a book he published in



2014 on [The Myth of America's Decline](#) – offers that bemoaning the “collapse” or “end” of the Liberal International Order (his words) has grown into a ‘cottage industry’ of pundits and professors. Joffe argues that the threat is quite overblown, suggesting that today’s nationalism is less dangerous as it is insular rather than imperial; authoritarianism has long been a feature of China, Russia and the Arab world; Turkey was never really a ‘solid democracy’; that the number of democracies worldwide, if counted according to the minimal criterion of genuinely contested elections, has grown to 122 states, “the largest number of all time”; and that “nowhere has an established democracy collapsed, not even in Poland or Hungary”. He goes, on but you get the picture.

What struck me about this piece is that it encapsulates a certain type of critique I have been hearing for years. It is both right and utterly wrong at the same time. It is right because everything Joffe says is true, as regards the states he name-checks, the rise of a form of ‘panic literature’ that claims the end of democracy and liberalism (as well as the West and Europe), and the undeniable fact that in academia certain ‘hot topics’ invariably attract bandwagon-jumpers. And yet, his analysis misses four vital points: (i) the overall research and policy consensus is that slower, subtler undermining of democratic rule has superseded *coups d’état* and outright breakdown as would-be autocrats’ preferred method of consolidating power (discussed below); (ii) analysis of the *trajectory* of democratic governance, both in individual states and globally, is even more important than static analysis; (iii) defining democracy by minimal criteria is neither sufficient nor rigorous; and (iv) looking at traditional indicators for democratic health can lead to the assertion that there is no problem.

Harking back to historical examples, as Joffe does, tends to elide the patterns of democratic decay today. While alarmism is certainly to be avoided, complacency is also unwarranted: Joffe’s analysis chimes with thinkers like Steven Pinker whose contrarian ‘Polyanna’ analysis is ultimately based on caricaturing democracy, threats to democracy, and those raising the alarm. For instance, [Pinker has been strongly criticised](#) for claiming, in his 2018 book [Enlightenment Now!](#), that two-thirds of the world’s population now lives in “free or relatively free societies” based on a data source “that gives Hungary and Poland perfect scores and counts Russia as more democratic than not.”

## 4 Diagnosing Decay: Detective Work v Data-Crunching

Today’s threats to democracy tend to manifest in a far more incremental, subtle and diffuse manner – but their cumulative effect can be to severely degrade the democratic system (as [Wojciech Sadurski noted](#) in the DEM-DEC Launch Podcast, and Kim Scheppele is a master of explaining). It is simply not enough to point to crude criteria and dismiss accounts of serious democratic decay in a wide variety of states worldwide. Partly, the visibility problem for this challenge is that understanding the reality of today’s threats requires marshalling a wide array of evidence, a lot of which can seem the preserve of legal-technical elites and extreme policy wonks. This is now the bread-and-butter of today’s democracy defenders – at least, those dealing with the subtler forms of democratic decay and erosion (not the most brazen attacks on democratic rule, which still occur). A number of pieces in this Update are relevant to this observation: one finds references to judicial independence hidden in the European Commission’s latest country reports from [European Commission reports](#); and a policy brief by Marcin Matczak sifting the [evidence for Poland’s democratic crisis](#).

This does not mean we will find democratic decay because we *expect* to find democratic decay – confirmation bias is to be avoided at all costs. And highly data-driven analysis is important: in a new article, [Anna Lührmann and Staffan Lindberg](#) (research leaders at [V-Dem](#), DEM-DEC’s newest partner) confirm that a ‘third wave of autocratization’ is here and tends to affect democracies with “gradual setbacks under a legal façade”. However, on a wide-ranging survey of data, they suggest that it

involves relatively mild declines and that the global share of democratic countries remains close to its all-time high. They conclude that: “As it was premature to announce the “end of history” in 1992, it is premature to proclaim the “end of democracy” now.” The tension arises in that highly qualitative, close, fine-grained of various states often suggests a somewhat darker picture. As I offered in an [ICONnect column](#) (written in Poland in July 2017) on ‘diagnosing democratic decay’,

[A]ny diagnostic technique must be as clear, rigorous and objective as possible, while still making room for educated guesswork and subjective assessment based on the overall picture. While we cannot attempt to be prophets or psychics, neither should that mean that we give up or take refuge in platitudes (“it’s complicated and context-specific”!). We cannot tell where a democratic system will be in ten years’ time, or even two years’ time. We often cannot tell whether, at the outset at least, reforms are aimed at a ‘bad faith’ hollowing out of democratic rule, or a ‘good faith’ rebalancing or transformation of the system. What we can do is find better ways of amassing our evidence, analysing it, and building our repository of ‘past patients’ when looking for similar patterns. Diagnostic techniques for degenerative diseases may prove an interesting model to emulate.

## 5 Is More Citizen Participation Really the Answer?

February brought the establishment of the [world’s first permanent Citizen Council](#), by the Parliament of the German-speaking community in Belgium. With citizens’ assemblies increasingly touted as an antidote to democratic decay, a number of pieces in this Update are key reading. In a new book, [Too Dumb For Democracy](#), David Moscrop makes the case that making good decisions is not impossible for individuals but that “the psychological and political odds are sometimes stacked against us”. The US authors of a 2002 book on [‘Stealth Democracy’](#) – suggested for addition by DEM-DEC user – offer that most individuals do not actually want to have great involvement in government: “Peoples’ wish for the political system is that decision makers be ... non-self-interested, not that they be responsive and accountable to the people’s largely nonexistent policy preferences or, even worse, that the people be obligated to participate directly in decision making.” In the latest issue of *Democratization*, Frank Hendriks discusses [‘democratic innovation’](#), arguing that we need “a practice and theory of democratic innovation reflecting the reality of democratic hybridization”, encompassing (quasi-)referenda, collaborative governance through coordinated action, and pragmatic activism. At the risk of making a terrible play on the notion of citizen participation, the jury’s still out on this issue(!).

## 6 Returning to the work of C.B. MacPherson on Liberal Democracy

While there are a raft of books on liberalism to be published in 2019 (see e.g. the new addition to the ‘Forthcoming Books’ section; a [sweeping history of liberalism](#) by James Traub), it remains important to rediscover thinkers from the past who have much to offer contemporary reflections on liberalism. Many thanks to Zoran Oklopčič for recommending, [on Twitter](#) (27 February), the overlooked but highly thought-provoking work on liberal democracy by the influential Canadian political scientist C.B. MacPherson (1911–1987). Two key books are listed overleaf. Zoran in his tweet describes MacPherson’s critique of liberal democracy as

A gentlemanly, constructive critique, but ultimately far more subversive than most recent attempts to (re-)weaponize Schmitt, Marx, Laclau or whoever against liberal constitutionalism.

(Note: For more discussion of concepts, see the [Concept Index](#) on DEM-DEC).

# Additions Suggested by DEM-DEC Users

**Note 1: Where possible, hyperlinks are provided directly to the text**

**Note 2: A number of suggested additions in this Update are found in the  
‘Forthcoming Research’ section on p.25**

## Monographs

[Jason BRENNAN](#), *Against Democracy: New Preface* (Princeton University Press, 2017).

[John R. HIBBING & Elizabeth THEISS-MORSE](#), *Stealth Democracy: Americans' Beliefs About How Government Should Work* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).

[Josef JOFFE](#), *The Myth of America's Decline: Politics, Economics, and a Half Century of False Prophecies* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2014).

[Ignas KALPOKAS](#), *A Political Theory of Post-Truth* (Springer, 2018).

[C.B. MACPHERSON](#), *Democratic Theory: Essays in Retrieval* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

[C.B. MACPHERSON & Frank CUNNINGHAM](#), *The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

[Greg SARGENT](#), *An Uncivil War: Taking Back Our Democracy in an Age of Trumpian Disinformation and Thunderdome Politics* (Harper Collins, 2018).

[Siva VAIDHYANATHAN](#), *Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

[Ozan VAROL](#), *The Democratic Coup d'État* (Oxford University Press 2017).

[Isser WOLOCH](#), *The Postwar Moment: Progressive Forces in Britain, France, and the United States after World War II* (Yale University Press, 22 January 2019).

## Book Chapters

[Mattias KUMM](#), 'The Rule of Law, Legitimate Authority and Constitutionalism' in Christoph BEZEMEK, Michael POTACS & Alexander SOMEK (eds.), *Legal Positivism, Institutionalism and Globalisation. Vienna Lectures on Legal Philosophy, Vol. 1* (Hart Publishing, 2018).

## Edited Collections

[Ivor CHIPKIN, Mark SWILLING, Haroon BHORAT, Mzukisi QOBO, Sikhulekile DUMA & Lumkile MONDI \(eds\)](#), *Shadow State: The Politics of State Capture* (NYU Press, 2018).

[Josef HIEN & Christian JOERGES \(eds\)](#), *Responses of European Economic Cultures to Europe's Crisis Politics: The Example of German-Italian Discrepancies* (European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, 2018).

[Steven B. WOLINETZ & Andrej ZASLOVE \(eds\)](#), *Absorbing the Blow: Populist Parties and Their Impact on Parties and Party Systems* (Rowman & Little International, 2018).

[Maurice ADAMS, Anne MEUWESE, Ernst HIRSCH BALLIN \(eds\)](#), *Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law: Bridging Idealism and Realism* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

## Articles

[Sheri BERMAN](#), 'The Pipe Dream of Undemocratic Liberalism' (2017) 28(3) *Journal of Democracy* 29.

[Edwin L. FELTER JR. & Oyku DİDEM AYDIN](#), 'The Death of Judicial Independence in Turkey: A Lesson for Others' (2018) 38(1) *Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law* 34.

[Holger DÖRING & Sven REGEL](#), 'Party Facts: A database of political parties worldwide' (2019) 25(2) *Party Politics* 97 (first published 7 January 2019).

**\* NB: This article introduces a new database on political parties, Party Facts – see p.29.**

[Julian A. SEMPILL](#), 'What Rendered Ancient Tyrants Detestable: The Rule of Law and the Constitution of Corporate Power' (2018) 10(2) *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law* 219.

[Ozan O. VAROL](#), Lucia DALLA PELLEGRINA & Nuno GAROUPA, 'An Empirical Analysis of Judicial Transformation in Turkey' (2017) 65(1) *American Journal of Comparative Law* 187.

[Ozan O. VAROL](#), 'The Democratic Coup d'Etat' (2012) 53(2) *Harvard International Law Journal* 291.

## Book Reviews

[András JAKAB](#), Book Review: 'Tom Ginsburg & Aziz Z. Huq. *How to Save a Constitutional Democracy*. University of Chicago Press, 2018. Pp. 320. \$35.00. ISBN: 9780226564388.' (2018) 16(4) *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 1352.

[Julian SCHOLTES](#), Book Review: 'András Sajó & Renata Uitz. *The Constitution of Freedom*. Oxford University Press, 2017. Pp. 512. \$75.00. ISBN: 9780198732174.' (2018) 3(9) *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 1033.

## Working Papers

**Electoral Regulation Research Network/Democratic Audit of Australia Joint Working Paper Series**

[Matthew O'ROURKE](#), 'Background Paper on Authoritarianism and Religion'. Working Paper No. 49 (October 2018).

[Zim NWOKORA](#), 'A Synopsis on the Deakin Workshop on Authoritarianism'. Working Paper No. 48 (September 2018).

## Policy Papers

[Policy Brief: Foundation for Law, Justice and Society](#), Poland's Constitutional Crisis: Facts and interpretations (FLJS, 2018). Author: Marcin Matczak.

## Print Media

**\* Note: Print media articles are generally not covered in this Update. However, we follow a policy of occasionally including pieces suggested to us by users, especially if they come from outlets such as Foreign Affairs, which provide more in-depth analysis.**

[Omar G. ENCARNACIÓN](#), 'Is Far-Right Populism Gaining Ground in Spain? What Vox's Rise in Andalusia Means for Madrid' Foreign Affairs 11 February 2019.



# DEM-DEC Launch Podcast

## Panel Discussion to Launch DEM-DEC

### ‘Is Democracy Decaying Worldwide? And What Can We Do About It?’

Having gone live on 25 June 2018, the Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC) was formally launched at the University of Melbourne on Monday 22 October with a panel discussion. The panel was specifically designed to be open to the public and to be suitable for broadcast. Panellists were asked to avoid all academic jargon in their contributions and to strive for clarity.

The panel started with a global overview from DEM-DEC Creator Dr Tom Gerald Daly of the deterioration of democracy worldwide, in states such as Hungary, the USA and Brazil. This was followed by discussion of democratic decay in Poland, Venezuela and India with leading experts: Prof. Wojciech Sadurski (University of Sydney), Dr Raul Sanchez Urribarri (Latrobe University), and Dr Tarunabh Khaitan (universities of Oxford and Melbourne). The panel concluded with discussion of the robustness of, and challenges facing, Australian democracy, with Prof. Cheryl Saunders (University of Melbourne), followed by Q&A with the audience. DEM-DEC was formally launched by Prof. Pip Nicholson, Dean of Melbourne Law School, following the panel.

## Podcast

On 27 and 28 November 2018 the launch panel discussion was broadcast as an hour-long programme on Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Radio National’s flagship current affairs programme ‘Big Ideas’. It is now available as a podcast.

Click CTRL and this symbol  
to access the panel podcast



# February 2019: New Publications

**Note: A small number of items below were published in February 2019 or early March 2019**

Monograph: David MOSCROP, Too Dumb for Democracy?: Why We Make Bad Political Decisions and How We Can Make Better Ones (Goose Lane Editions, published 5 March 2019).

## Hague Journal on the Rule of Law: First Online Articles (February 2019)

Tom Gerald DALY, 'Democratic Decay: Conceptualising an Emerging Research Field' Hague Journal on the Rule of Law (published online 19 February 2019).

## Chinese Journal of International Law (February 2019)

Barrie SANDER, 'Democracy Under the Influence: Paradigms of State Responsibility for Cyber Influence Operations on Elections' (published online 21 February 2019).

## Democratization: Online First articles (February and March 2019)

### **Articles**

Anna Lührmann & Staffan I. Lindberg, 'A third wave of autocratization is here: what is new about it?' (published online 1 March 2019).

### **Book Review**

Agnes Batory, 'Nordic nationalism and right-wing populist politics: imperial relationships and national sentiments, by Eirikur Bergmann' (published online 20 Feb 2019).

## Democratization: Volume 26, Issue 3 (February 2019)

### **Articles**

Frank HENDRIKS, 'Democratic innovation beyond deliberative reflection: the plebiscitary rebound and the advent of action-oriented democracy' (2019) 26(3) Democratization 444.

José Antonio Hernández COMPANY, 'Parallel authoritarian powers: an explanation of Mexico's authoritarian regime breakdown' (2019) 26(3) Democratization 465.

Duncan McDONNELL & Luis CABRERA, 'The right-wing populism of India's Bharatiya Janata Party (and why comparativists should care)' (2019) 26(3) Democratization 484.

Mikkel SEJERSEN, 'Democratic sanctions meet black knight support: revisiting the Belarusian case' (2019) 26(3) Democratization 502.

### **Book Reviews**

Kenneth BUNKER, 'Party systems in Latin America: institutionalization, decay, and collapse, edited by Scott Mainwaring' (2019) 26(3) Democratization 554.

Balazs SZENT-IVANYI, 'Democracy promotion and the normative power Europe framework: the European Union in South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, edited by Marek Neuman' (2019) 26(3) Democratization 555.

Zeynep SENTEK, 'Between military rule and democracy: regime consolidation in Greece, Turkey, and beyond, by Yaprak Gürsoy' (2019) 26(3) Democratization 557.

### Problems of Post-Communism: Volume 66, Issue 1 (February 2019)

### **Special Issue: 'Mapping the Discursive Opportunities for Radical-Right Populist Politics across Eastern Europe'**

#### **Introduction**

Ov Cristian NOROCEL & Gabriella SZABÓ, 'Introduction' (2019) 66(1) Problems of Post-Communism 1.

#### **Articles**

Sorina SOARE & Claudiu D. TUFİŞ, 'Phoenix Populism: Radical Right Parties' Mobilization in Romania after 2015' (2019) 66(1) Problems of Post-Communism 8.

Mojca PAJNIK, 'Media Populism on the Example of Right-Wing Political Parties' Communication in Slovenia' (2019) 66(1) Problems of Post-Communism 21.

Gabriella SZABÓ, Ov Cristian NOROCEL & Márton BENE, 'Media Visibility and Inclusion of Radical Right Populism in Hungary and Romania: A Discursive Opportunity Approach' (2019) 66(1) Problems of Post-Communism 33.

Andres KASEKAMP, Mari-Liis MADISSON & Louis WIERENGA, 'Discursive Opportunities for the Estonian Populist Radical Right in a Digital Society' (2019) 66(1) Problems of Post-Communism 47.

Alena KLUKNAVSKÁ & Matej HRUŠKA, 'We Talk about the "Others" and You Listen Closely: The Extreme Right Communication on Social Media' (2019) 66(1) Problems of Post-Communism 59.

Artur LIPÍŃSKI & Agnieszka STĘPIŃSKA, 'Polish Right-Wing Populism in the Era of Social Media: The Unexpected Careers of Paweł Kukiz and Janusz Korwin-Mikke' (2019) 66(1) Problems of Post-Communism 71.

Society: Volume 56, Issue 1 (February 2019)

Göran ADAMSON, 'Why Do Right-Wing Populist Parties Prosper? Twenty-One Suggestions to the Anti-Racist', Symposium: Order and Disorder Around the World (First Online, 6 February 2019).

Perspectives on Politics: Volume 17, Issue 1 (March 2019)

**Article**

Jan TEORELL & Staffan I. LINDBERG, 'Beyond Democracy-Dictatorship Measures: A New Framework Capturing Executive Bases of Power, 1789–2016' (2019)17(1) Perspectives on Politics 66.

**Book Reviews**

Steven K. VOGEL, 'Liberalism in Illiberal States: Ideas and Economic Adjustment in Contemporary Europe' (2019)17(1) Perspectives on Politics 179.

Mark I. VAIL, 'Response to Steven K. Vogel's review of Liberalism in Illiberal States: Ideas and Economic Adjustment in Contemporary Europe' (2019)17(1) Perspectives on Politics 180.

European Journal of International Law: Volume 29, Issue 4 (December 2018 – February 2019)

Lorenzo CASINI, 'Googling Democracy? New Technologies and the Law of Global Governance: Afterword to Eyal Benvenisti's Foreword (2018) 29(4) European Journal of International Law 1071 (published 14 February 2019).

Virginia Law Review: Volume 105 online (February 2019)

Ashley DEEKS, 'Foreword: Facebook Unbound?' (2019) 105(1) Virginia Law Review Online.

Sarah C. HAAN, 'Facebook's Alternative Facts' (2019) 105(1) Virginia Law Review Online.

Working Paper: Laurence BURGORGUE-LARSEN, 'Populism and Human Rights: From Disenchantment to Democratic Riposte'. iCourts Working Paper Series, No. 156 (25 February 2019).

\* Forthcoming (in a shorter version) in András Sajó & Renáta Uitz (eds), *From Criticism to Scorn: How the Recalibration of Human Rights Diminishes Liberty and What to Do About It?*.

Working Paper: Laurence R. HELFER, 'Populism and International Human Rights Institutions: A Survival Guide'. iCourts Working Paper Series, No. 133, 2018. Duke Law School Public Law & Legal Theory Series No. 2018-50. (Most recently revised version is from 28 February 2019).

\* Forthcoming in Gerald L. Neuman (ed), *Human Rights in a Time of Populism: Challenges and Responses* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Working Paper: Dimitry KOCHENOV & Petra BÁRD, 'The Last Soldier Standing? Courts vs Politicians and the Rule of Law Crisis in the New Member States of the EU' (forthcoming, European Yearbook of Constitutional Law, 2019; published on SSRN on 22 February 2019).

V-Dem Working Paper: Anna LÜHRMANN & Bryan ROONEY, 'When Democracy has a Fever: States of Emergency as a Symptom and Accelerator of Autocratization'. University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 85. March 2019.

Research Paper: Paul NEMITZ and Frithjof EHM, 'Strengthening EU Democracy and its Resilience against Autocracy: Daring more democracy and a European Democracy Charter'. College of Europe Research Papers in Law. Edition 1/2019 (8 February 2019).

Policy Report: Brookings Institution, The anatomy of illiberal states: Assessing and responding to democratic decline in Turkey and Central Europe (Brookings Institution, February 2019). Authors: Alina Polyakova, Torrey Taussig, Ted Reinert, Kemal Kirişçi, Amanda Sloat, James Kirchick, Melissa Hooper, Norman Eisen & Andrew Kenealy.

Policy Report: Council of Europe, Democracy at Risk: Threats and Attacks Against Media Freedom in Europe. Annual Report 2019 by the Partner Organisations to the Council of Europe Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists.

Policy Report: Open Dialogue, Law and Justice's campaign against the Open Dialogue Foundation (Open Dialogue, 18 February 2019). Authors: Martin Mycielski & Bartosz Kramak.

Policy Report: Harvard Kennedy School, NATO at 70: An alliance in crisis (Harvard Kennedy School Belfer School for Science and International Affairs, February 2019). Authors: Douglas Lute & Nicholas Burns.

#### Policy Reports: European Commission Country Reports on Poland and Hungary (27 February 2019)

These reports:

- Contain brief but useful new information regarding judicial independence, especially the Hungary report
- The Hungary Report confirms that the Commission is looking into infringement action against Hungary and appears to be waiting for a pending Opinion from the Venice Commission before it acts.

Country Report Hungary 2019. Brussels, 27.2.2019 SWD(2019) 1016 final

Country Report Poland 2019. Brussels, 27.2.2019 SWD(2019) 1020 final



[Policy Report: World Justice Project](#), What the Data Says About Judicial Independence and Fundamental Freedoms in Hungary (6 February 2019).

[Position Papers from Rule of Law Roundtable at the Parliament of the Netherlands \(14 February 2019\)](#)

**\* Note: The link above is to simple details of the event. A specific link is provided to each paper.**

**\* Note: The Amnesty document is a Word document that must be downloaded directly from the link provided**

[László MARÁCZ](#), 'Position paper prepared for the public roundtable discussion on the rule of law in Poland and Hungary in the Standing Committee on European Affairs of the Netherlands House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer)'.

[Israel BUTLER](#), 'Brief overview and analysis of tools available to the EU to protect pluralist democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights'.

[Geerst CORSTENS](#), Criticism of the Judiciary: The Virtue of Moderation.

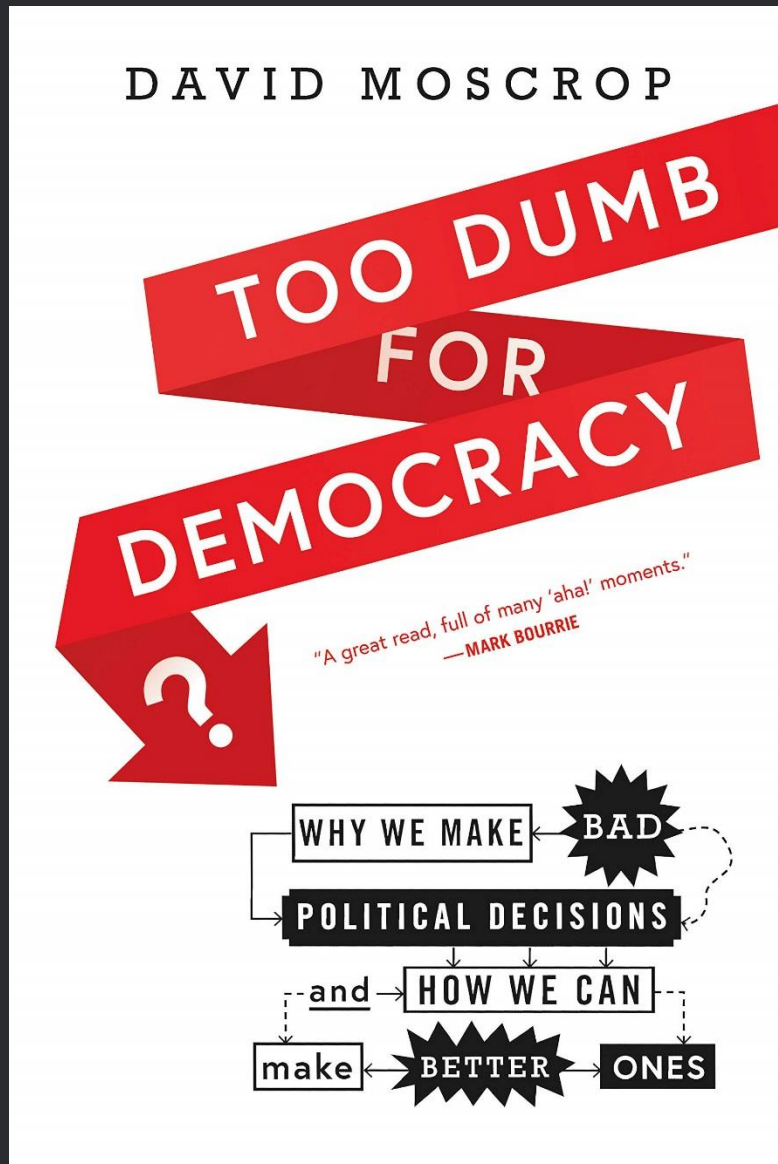
[AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL](#), 'Tweede Kamer - The Netherlands House of Representatives: Roundtable discussion on the rule of law in Poland and Hungary. 14 February 2019'.

[HELSINKI FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS](#), 'The rule of law crisis in Poland'.

[HUNGARIAN HELSINKI FOUNDATION, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL & HUNGARIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION \(HCLU\)](#), 'Orbán's Government Heads Towards Arbitrary Rule'.

[Miklós SZÁNTHÓ](#), Director of the Center for Fundamental Rights in Budapest, 'Note on the Legislation Governing Administrative Courts'.

# DEM-DEC Recommended Read



Bad decisions down to a science.

D'oh-mocracy at its finest.

Brexit. Trump. Ford Nation. In this timely book, David Moscrop asks why we make irrational political decisions and whether our stone-age brains can process democracy in the information age.

In an era overshadowed by income inequality, environmental catastrophes, terrorism at home and abroad, and the decline of democracy, Moscrop argues that the political decision-making process has never been more important. In fact, our survival may depend on it.

Drawing on both political science and psychology, Moscrop examines how our brains, our environment, the media, and institutions influence decision-making. Making good decisions is not impossible, Moscrop argues, but the psychological and political odds are sometimes stacked against us.

**Available now from Goose Lane Editions**

**Paperback \$22.95 / Also available as E-book**

Too Dumb for Democracy?: Why We Make Bad Political Decisions and How We Can Make Better Ones. Goose Lane Editions 2019. 9781773100418 <https://bit.ly/2Tu3leG>

# Cas Mudde's Recommended Reads on Far Right & Populism By Female Scholars

**Note 1:** In this reading list, the Dutch political scientist Cas Mudde recommends 10 books on the contemporary far right and populism written and edited by women scholars.

**Note 2:** This post originally appeared on the [LSE Review of Books](#) and is reproduced with the kind permission of the Editor, Dr Rosemary Deller, and Prof. Mudde. If you would like to add to this list, please add your recommendations in the comments below the post itself.

In this reading list, the Dutch political scientist Cas Mudde recommends 10 books on the contemporary far right and populism written and edited by women scholars. If you would like to add to this list, please add your recommendations in the comments below.

This reading list is part of a theme week published in the run-up to International Women's Day 2019 (#IWD2019) to showcase and celebrate women's scholarship across the social sciences and humanities. You can explore more of the week's content [here](#).

## **Reading List: 10 Recommended Reads on the Contemporary Far Right and Populism**

Women scholars have written groundbreaking studies on both far right and populist politics. Today, women authors are quite well represented in the study of the far right, both in Europe and North America. But, somewhat surprisingly, particularly given that those such as Margaret Canovan, Chantal Mouffe and Nadia Urbinati are among its founders, women scholars are less visible within the growing field of populism studies. These ten books are just a selection of the wealth of female scholarship on the contemporary far right and populism.

## **Books on the Far Right**

**Inside Organized Racism: Women in the Hate Movement. Kathleen Blee. University of California Press. 2003.**

US sociologist Kathleen Blee is a pioneer in the study of the far right in general, and the role of women within the US far right in particular. Her work is defined by remarkable access to far right activists as well as exceptional reflection on the challenges of doing research in this particular field. *Inside Organized Racism* is one of her classic works, and a must read for anyone interested in the still understudied topic of gender and the far right as well as in doing fieldwork on the far right.

**The Extreme Right in Western Europe: Success or Failure? Elisabeth Carter. Manchester University Press. 2005.**

The British-Swiss political scientist Elisabeth Carter wrote one of the most important books on radical right parties in Western Europe of the early 2000s, which unfortunately has received too little attention. One of the first to empirically study the supply-side of radical right party politics, Carter provides an exceptionally comprehensive analysis of their party ideologies and tests the importance of their organisation, leadership, party competition and their institutional environment on the basis of cross-national comparisons. This book remains essential reading for scholars of radical right/populist party politics.

**Mobilizing on the Extreme Right: Germany, Italy and the United States. Manuela Caiani, Donatella della Porta and Claudius Wagemann. Oxford University Press, 2012.**

The Italian political sociologists Manuela Caiani and Donatella della Porta, together with the German political scientist and methodologist Claudius Wagemann, are among the first scholars to systematically apply a social movement approach to understanding the far right. Their comparative study analyses discourses, ideologies, online networking and violence, providing a much-missed non-party perspective to the party-dominated European literature. It is also one of the few studies to integrate the US into a comparative framework.

**Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America. Kathleen Belew. Harvard University Press, 2018.**

In this original book, US historian Kathleen Belew argues that key activists within the modern US far right were profoundly influenced by (their experiences in) the Vietnam War. It was Vietnam veterans like Louis R. Beam Jr who popularised the notion of 'leaderless resistance' within the far right, which inspired many of the most infamous far right terrorists, from Robert Jay Matthews (The Order) to Timothy McVeigh (Oklahoma City bombing). Belew also shows how the defeatist mood in the US led to a push for 'remasculinisation', expressed through the paramilitarisation of US culture in general, and the various far-right subcultures in particular.

**The Extreme Gone Mainstream: Commercialization and Far Right Youth Culture in Germany. Cynthia Miller-Idriss. Princeton University Press. 2018.**

US sociologist Cynthia Miller-Idriss has always approached (far right) nationalism from original angles, focusing specifically on the role of education and educators. The Extreme Gone Mainstream tackles the most important issue related to the far right today, its mainstreaming, from a cultural perspective. Applying a range of original research methods, Miller-Idriss documents how the commercialisation of far right fashion attracts (disenfranchised) youths and aids the mainstreaming of far right ideas and symbols. Read the LSE RB review [here](#).

## **Books on Populism**

**The People. Margaret Canovan. Polity. 2005.**

The British political philosopher Margaret Canovan, who sadly died last year, is without doubt the doyenne of contemporary populism studies. Her seminal book *Populism* (1981) might no longer be as useful as it used to be, but it has profoundly influenced most of the leading populism scholars today. Although her last book, *The People*, is technically not on populism, it discusses three interpretations of 'the people', which are crucial to understanding the different types of populism we see today.

**Illiberal Politics in Neoliberal Times: Culture, Security and Populism in the New Europe. Mabel Berezin. Cambridge University Press. 2009.**

Focusing primarily on the Front National in France, with comparative reference to Italy and beyond, US sociologist Mabel Berezin was one of the first academics to position the rise of (right-wing) populism in the broader neoliberal context of post-Maastricht Europe. The book's emphasis on the importance of culture and security ties in perfectly with the more recent reactions to Jihadi terrorism and the so-called 'refugee crisis' in Europe.

**Democracy Disfigured: Opinion, Truth and the People. Nadia Urbinati. Harvard University Press. 2014.**

The Italian political theorist Nadia Urbinati is one of the longest-serving scholars of populism, even if her work has not had the widespread reception it deserves. In *Democracy Disfigured*, she focuses on three contemporary challenges to liberal democracy: 'epistemic' (i.e. technocracy), populism and plebiscitarianism. Broader in scope and not easily accessible to non-academic audiences, it offers a sophisticated analysis of populism in its wider democratic context.

**The Politics of Fear: What Right-Wing Populist Discourses Mean. Ruth Wodak. Sage. 2015.**

Austrian discourse analyst Ruth Wodak has written many texts on both the far right and populism over the past decades. *The Politics of Fear* is her masterwork, in which she analyses and explains how right-wing populist parties use fear in their political discourses. Drawing in particular on the Austrian



Freedom Party (FPÖ), from her native Austria, Wodak provides a template for future studies of populist discourses.

**For a Left Populism. Chantal Mouffe. Verso. 2018.**

Together with her late husband, Ernesto Laclau, the Belgian philosopher Chantal Mouffe counts as one of the most vocal defenders of left-wing populism. Her latest book is more a pamphlet in defense of social democratic politics, which she, somewhat unfortunately, refers to as 'left populism'. What it lacks in intellectual depth and originality, this short book compensates for with authentic passion. Moreover, *For a Left Populism* is a perfect introduction into, and summary of, Mouffe's distinctive but influential theoretical framework on democracy and populism. Read the LSE RB review [here](#).

*Note: This reading list gives the views of the author, and not the position of the LSE Review of Books blog, or of the London School of Economics.*

# Forthcoming Research

**Note 1: Where possible, hyperlinks are provided to information on the text**

**Note 2: New additions to this section, since the previous Update, are now clearly marked**

## Books

[Bruce ACKERMAN](#), *The Rise of World Constitutionalism, Volume One: Revolutionary Constitutions: Charismatic Leadership and the Rule of Law* (Harvard University Press, due for publication 13 May 2019). \* **Note: this is the first volume in a three-volume series**

[Carol ANDERSON](#), *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy* (Bloomsbury Publishing, due for publication 17 September 2019).

[Yeşim ARAT & Şevket PAMUK](#), *Turkey Between Democracy and Authoritarianism* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication in September 2019).

[Chip BERLET](#), *Trumping Democracy in the United States: From Ronald Reagan to Alt-Right* (Routledge, forthcoming; due for publication 1 February 2019).

[Julian BERNAUER & Adrian VATTER](#), *Power Diffusion and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication in August 2019).

[David F J CAMPBELL](#), *Global Quality of Democracy as Innovation Enabler: Measuring Democracy for Success* (Palgrave Macmillan, due for publication 22 November 2019).

[Renske DOORENSPLEET](#), *Rethinking the Value of Democracy: A Comparative Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, due for publication 2019 (precise date TBA)).

[Yiftah ELAZAR & Geneviève ROUSSELIÈRE](#), *Republicanism and the Future of Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication in August 2019).

**NEW** [Henry FARRELL & Abraham L. NEWMAN](#), *Of Privacy and Power: The Transatlantic Struggle over Freedom and Security* (Princeton University Press, due for publication 2 April 2019).

[Catherine FIESCHI](#), *Populocracy: The Tyranny of Authenticity and the Rise of Populism* (Columbia University Press, due for publication June 2019).

[George FRIEDMAN](#), *The Storm Before the Calm: America's Discord, the Coming Crisis of the 2020s, and the Triumph Beyond* (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, due for publication 10 September 2019).

[Dipayan GHOSH](#), *Digital Democracy: A New Social Contract for Our Technological Future* (publisher TBA, due for publication 5 November 2019).

Ioannis N. GRIGORIADIS, *Democratic Transition and the Rise of Populist Majoritarianism: Constitutional Reform in Greece and Turkey* (Palgrave Macmillan, due for publication 7 November 2019).

Sean INGHAM, *Rule by Multiple Majorities: A New Theory of Popular Control (Part of Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions)* (due for publication in January 2019).

Ignas KALPOKAS, *A Political Theory of Post-Truth* (Palgrave Macmillan, due for publication 11 September 2019).

Ivan KRASTEV I & Stephen HOLMES, *The Light that Failed* (Penguin, forthcoming 2019).

Michael LIND, *The New Class War: Saving Democracy from the Elite Hardcover* (Penguin, due for publication 15 October 2019).

Joe MULHALL, David LAWRENCE, Simon MURDOCH & Patrik HERMANSSON, *The Alt-Right International* (Routledge, forthcoming; due for publication 30 March 2019).

John NICHOLS, *The Danger of American Fascism: Henry Wallace, Donald Trump, and the Democratic Party's Road Not Taken* (Penguin Random House Canada, due for publication 17 September 2019).

Frances E. NOLAN & Nolan McCARTY, *Can America Govern Itself?* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication in August 2019).

Pippa NORRIS & Ron INGLEHART, *Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit and the Rise of Authoritarian Populism* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication in April 2019).

Dana OTT, *Small is Democratic: An Examination of State Size and Democratic Development (Comparative Studies of Democratization)*; due for publication 12 October 2020).

Merijn OUDENAMPSEN, *The Dutch New Right: Culture Wars in the Netherlands* (Routledge, forthcoming; listed as due for publication 28 February 2019 but no details as yet).

Wojciech SADURSKI, *Poland's Constitutional Breakdown: Freefall 2015-2018* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming, early 2019).

Amy Erica SMITH, *Religion and Brazilian Democracy: Mobilizing the People of God* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication July 2019).

Alen TOPLIŠEK, *Liberal Democracy in Crisis: Rethinking Resistance under Neoliberal Governmentality* (Palgrave Macmillan, due for publication 16 October 2019).

**NEW** James TRAUB, *What Was Liberalism?: The Past, Present, and Promise of a Noble Idea Hardcover* (Basic Books, due for publication 24 September 2019).

Kurt WEYLAND & Raúl L. MADRID (eds), *When Democracy Trumps Populism: European and Latin American Lessons for the United States* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication Jan. 2019).

## **Edited Collections**

Stephen ASHE, Joel BUSER, Graham MACKLIN and Aaron WINTER (eds), *Researching the Far Right: Theory, Method and Practice* (Routledge, due for publication 1 June 2019).

Francesca BIGNAMI (ed), *EU Law in Populist Times* (Cambridge University Press (forthcoming, publication date TBC).

Yoichi FUNABASHI & G. John IKENBERRY (eds), *The Crisis of Liberal Internationalism: Japan and the World Order* (publisher TBA, due for publication 29 October 2019).

Graham MACKLIN and Fabian VIRCHOW (eds), *Transnational Extreme Right Networks* (Routledge, due for publication 1 May 2019).

Eugene D. MAZO & Timothy K. KUHNER (eds), *Democracy by the People: Reforming Campaign Finance in America* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication April 2019).

**NEW** Gerald L. NEUMAN (ed), *Human Rights in a Time of Populism: Challenges and Responses* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming, 2019).

Stephen SKINNER (ed), *Ideology and Criminal Law: Fascist, National Socialist and Authoritarian Regimes* (Hart Publishing, due for publication 25 July 2019).

## Book Chapters

Tímea DRINÓCZI, 'Legislation in Hungary' In Helen Xanthaki & Ulrich Karpen (eds), *Legislation in Europe – A Country to Country Guide* (Hart Publishing, forthcoming, 2019).

Bertil Emrah ODER, 'Populism and the Turkish Constitutional Court: From a Game Broker to a Strategic Compromiser' in M Javonovic & V Besiveric (eds), *New Politics of Decisionism* (Eleven, forthcoming, 2019).

Shawn ROSENBERG, 'Democracy Devouring Itself: The Rise of the Incompetent Citizen and the Appeal of Right Wing Populism' in D Hur & JM Sabucedo (eds), *Psychology of Political and Everyday Extremisms* (forthcoming, 2019).

Kim SCHEPPELE & R. Daniel KELEMEN, 'Defending Democracy in EU Member States: Beyond Article 7 TEU' in Francesca Bignami (ed), *The EU at a Crossroads: From Technocracy to High Politics?* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Kim SCHEPPELE, 'Autocracy Under Cover' in T Ginsburg, T Halliday & G Shaffer (eds), *Constitution-Making as Transnational Legal Practice* (Cambridge University Press, due for publication in August 2019).

Kim SCHEPPELE, 'The Legal Complex and Lawyers-in-Chief' in R Greenspan, J Simon & H Aviram (eds), *The Legal Process and the Promise of Justice* (Cambridge University Press, June 2019).

## Journal Special Issues

David KOSAŘ (ed), special issue of the *German Law Journal* on 'The Rise and Fall of Judicial Self-Government in Europe' (forthcoming, 2019).

\* Two special issues of the *German Law Journal* are also due for publication in April 2019. Details coming soon.

Gila STOPLER & Iddo PORAT (eds), special issue of *Law and Ethics of Human Rights* on 'Democratic Backsliding and Human Rights' (forthcoming, 2020).

András JAKAB & Howard SCHWEBER, Special Edition of *Constitutional Studies*: 'The Role of Constitutional Design in Preventing or Contributing to Constitutional Decline'.

## Articles

[Ryan CALO & Madeline LAMO](#), 'Regulating Bot Speech' 66 UCLA Law Review (forthcoming, 2019).

Tímea DRINÓCZI & Agnieszka BIEN-KACAŁA, 'Constitutions and Constitutionalism Captured: Shaping Illiberal Democracies in Hungary and Poland', German Law Journal (forthcoming, summer 2019).

Tímea DRINÓCZI & Agnieszka BIEN-KACAŁA, 'Extra-legal Particularities and Illiberal Constitutionalism - The Case of Hungary and Poland', Hungarian Journal of Legal Studies (forthcoming, 2019).

[Sarah C. HAAN](#), 'The Post-Truth First Amendment' 94 Indiana Law Journal (forthcoming, 2019).

[Tamar HOSTOVSKY BRANDES](#), 'International Law in Domestic Courts in an Era of Populism', International Journal of Constitutional Law (forthcoming, 2019).

[Luke Dimitrios SPIEKER](#), 'From Moral Values to Legal Obligations – On How to Activate the Union's Common Values in the EU Rule of Law Crisis', German Law Journal (forthcoming, 2019).



# New Resources in DEM-DEC Links

**Note: From this Update onward, new resources listed in the DEM-DEC Links section will be highlighted here**

New resources added to the [Links](#) section on DEM-DEC since the last Research Update include:

## **New Database on Political Parties**

[Party Facts: A database of political parties worldwide on](#)

## **New Research Project**

[DEMOS: Democratic Efficiency and the Varieties of Populism in Europe](#)

Based on the assumption that populism is symptomatic of a disconnect between how democratic polities operate and how citizens perceive their own aspirations, needs and identities within the political system, DEMOS explores the practical value of 'democratic efficacy' as the condition of political engagement needed to address the challenge of populism. The concept combines attitudinal features (political efficacy), political skills, knowledge, and democratic opportunity structures.

## **New Webinar Series**

[RECONNECT Webinar Series](#) on issues related to democratic decay and rule of law backsliding

## **Information Sources on Venezuela**

[Venezuelan Politics and Human Rights Blog](#)

Blog hosted by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). A unique resource for journalists, policymakers, scholars, activists and others who want to understand Venezuelan politics.

[Caracas Chronicles: Making Venezuela Make Sense](#)

Independent news and analysis organization devoted to one of those missions that's easier-said-than-done: making Venezuela make sense.

# Featured Link

## Party Facts Database

### Description

The Party Facts project is a gateway to empirical data about political parties and a modern online platform about parties and their history as recorded in social science datasets. It makes use of social media technologies to create a collaborative data infrastructure following an approach to collect data successfully applied by the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL).

Political scientists have accumulated a large amount of data on political parties. This information is included in mass surveys, data handbooks and various datasets on election results, voting records, party characteristics and party positions. With this information we can trace the dynamics of party competition across countries and time. However, the many existing datasets with crucial information about political parties are difficult to link and there is the need for a platform that helps to combine existing sources.

With Party Facts we want to establish an infrastructure that supports political scientists in linking parties across datasets. Our work is based on the experience we gained in recording and linking party information in the Manifesto project and the ParlGov project with initial data for Party Facts derived from these two projects. In the Party Facts project we link main datasets of political science and provide a platform for other scientists to add party information and additional datasets.

Further extensions may include an online (expert) survey page for each party, user specific linking options between parties and a modern data interface (REST API).

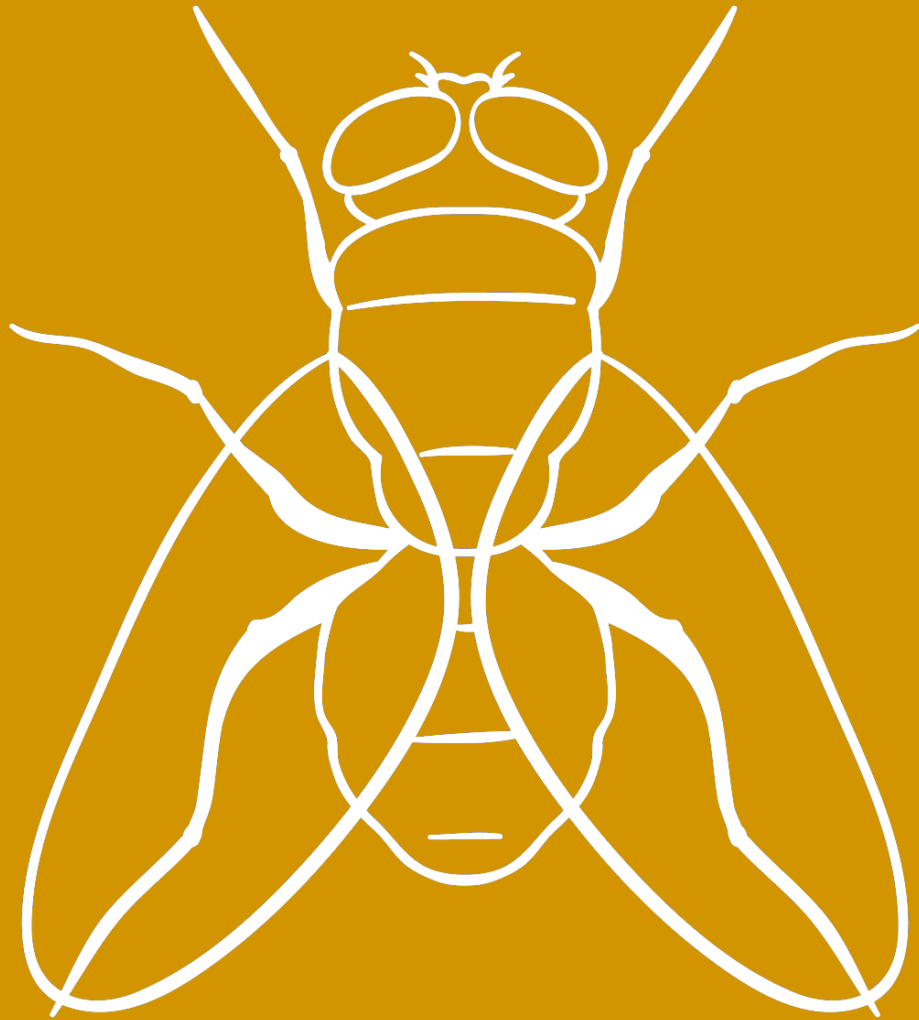
### Credits

Holger Döring — University of Bremen

Sven Regel — WZB Berlin Social Science Center



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