

# ABSTRACTS

Regula Stämpfli

## «IT'S DEMOCRACY, STUPID!»

At the moment, fundamental democratic rights are being abrogated globally and right-wing populists are growing in number. Many countries are heading on an authoritarian course long thought to be a thing of the past. This dangerous phase is accompanied by a dominant elite, that regard people as capital, that they can best control, calculate and sell with the help of Big Data (and Silicon Valley). – We need Utopias and alternatives urgently now.

Keywords: Democracy, Elite Theories, Silicon Valley, Big Data, Hashtag, Facebook, Media Democracy, Economisation, Swiss Federal Constitution, the Humanities

Page: 4

Nicola Forster and Maximilian Stern

## A SHORT HISTORY OF FUTURE DEMOCRACY

You are one of 10 million parliamentarians in Switzerland and work with the new tools of democracy for the future of our society. Since 2017, our political system has at long last developed a digital infrastructure of democracy and is developing from a voting democracy to a participative one.

Keywords: Voting Democracy, Participative Democracy, Direct Democracy, Digital Voting Rights, Tools of Democracy, Social Media

Page: 9

Kacem El Ghazzali

## DER ARABISCHE FRÜHLING UND DER GLOBALISIERUNGSSCHOCK: VON NAPOLEON ZU ZUCKERBERG

Wenn wir uns mit der Zukunft der Demokratie in der arabischen Welt beschäftigen, sind wir mit einem grundlegenden Problem konfrontiert: Wie können wir uns mit der Zukunft befassen, deren Kernidee noch gar nicht geboren ist und deren grundsätzliche Erfahrungen noch nicht gemacht wurden? Während Europa heute eine kritische Analyse über Demokratisierungsprozesse und ihre Zukunftspotenziale lancieren möchte – ganz besonders in Anbetracht der neuen Rechten, des Brexits und Trumps –, wird auf der südlichen Seite des Mittelmeers, in der arabischen Welt, eine ganz andere Diskussion geführt: eine über die Abwesenheit von grundsätzlichen Erfahrungen mit der Demokratie.

Keywords: Arabische Demokratie, Globalisierung, Politischer Islam, Modernität, Liberale Revolution, Internet

Seite: 11

Daniel Stanislaus Martel

## INFORMED CRITICAL CITIZENS – FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY?

The «transparent» individual as economic subject and object as well as member of the constitutive people is the guiding principle of the most diverse lines of thought. This often involves a fear of the termination of the private sphere. For the adept, data traces are easily picked up on; their use strengthens the position of those in power, not only via criminal machinations. By contrast, a different postulate now emboldens the citizen. Thanks to this plethora of data a great deal about these «controls» can be discovered and made widespread. This should be the citizen's best defence. Privacy protection and freedom of information are elements of democracy, guidelines to their use are less clear. What will these be like in the future?

Keywords: Private Sphere, Freedom of Information, Fake News, Disinformation, Data Abuse, Spyware

Page: 14

Yana Milev

### **THE DISCONNECTED: BLIND SPOTS IN SOCIETY'S MIDST**

Protest is visible again, particularly in East Germany when since the Fall of the Wall in 1989 it is clear that not everybody feels to be a winner. Four decades of GDR dictatorship was followed by Western democracy and radical societal change – for which the great majority of East Germans were not in the slightest prepared. In her contribution, Yana Milev sheds light on the «disconnected»; those who feel stranded in their own country.

Keywords: Society Breakdown, Democracy, Migration, Capitalism, Neo-liberalism, East Germany, Future

Page: 17

Nicolas Zahn

### **POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AS ACTORS OF THE FUTURE**

Founded in 2013 following the acceptance of the mass immigration initiative, Operation Libero has become a strong political power and has become well known to most observers in the meantime. It wishes to tap its successes into the future and enrich the political landscape.

Keywords: Democracy, Operation Libero, Flat Hierarchies, Campaign Movements, Online Petitions, Mass Immigration Initiative

Page: 22

Daniel Kübler

### **HOW GLOBALISATION AND MEDIATISATION ARE CHANGING OUR DEMOCRACIES**

For twelve years the primary national research subject of Switzerland's National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) has investigated how, in the course of globalisation, democracy has been altered. Focusing in particular on how the increase of populists in democracies can be explained and what role the changing media environment has played in it.

Keywords: NCCR Democracy, Populism, Globalisation, Mediatisation, Pluralism

Page: 24

Harro von Senger

### **SINO-MARXISM: UNKNOWN DRIVING FORCE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Western perspective on China regarding its developments is usually rooted in a phenomenological approach based on «facts», less than a normative academic one. But when evaluating communist party documents and analysing Chinese legal rights, it becomes clear that it is not so much the Chinese State, but the Party, above all, that institutes central political norms and, in so doing, follows a certain school of thinking that can be termed Sino-Marxism.

Keywords: Sino-Marxism, Marxist-Leninism, Mao Zedong, Communist Party of China, Party norms, Marx, Engels

Page: 30