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Einladung
zum Vortrag von

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Challenges, Paradoxes and the Emotionality of Democracy

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Zum Vortrag

Over the last twenty years or so it is assumed that democracy is in the wane. If the claim of a good number of political analysts that a wave of autocratization is under way is too much, the fact is that many consolidated and newly established democracies are at pains to deliver their promises. Nevertheless, in practice, democracy is by definition a fragile political project, while in theory it is an essentially contested concept. The interplay between democratization and de-democratization is a world-wide constant historical process and therefore, concerns about the quality and survival of democracy have been raised many decades before “democratic deficit”, “post-democracy”, and “managed democracy” gain currency.

Under the double dynamic of societal acceleration and global accumulation of capital, democracies fall short in according social justice, fighting multiple discriminations, and responding to citizens’ demands for social inclusion, recognition and dignity. As a consequence, a repertory of emotional-political styles has emerged, ranging from apathy, alienation and cynicism to political malaise and moral anger. These reactions stem from several challenges democracy is facing in our neo-liberal times. Among these challenges are the discrepancy between political and socio-economic equality, the crisis of public knowledge and public communication, world-wide geopolitical confrontations and securitization. These challenges are intertwined with a couple of paradoxes such as the pertinent tension of freedom and equality, the tripling of the citizen in their capacity as producer, consumer, and shareholder, as well as the diffuse support of democracy emanating from authoritarian value orientations.

Zum Vortragenden

Nicolas Demertzis is Professor at the Department of Communication and Media Studies, NKUA. His research interests include political sociology, cultural sociology, political communication, and the sociology of emotions. His publication record amounts to 29 edited, and co-edited books, as well as 105 articles and chapters in Greek and English journals and collective volumes. From 2013 to 2023 he was the Director of the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE), Greece.