



Christoph Bezemek, Introduction

Part III: Actors

Stefanie Egidy, Institutions

The functioning of democracies is a crucial to address the crisis of global constitutionalism. The impression of "democratic decay" therefore serves as the starting point of my contribution. Healthy institutions are the essential pillars of a democracy. They form an intricate support structure for safeguarding the provision of collective goods, such as social peace, physical wellbeing, the protection of human rights, but also financial stability. Despite their organizational structure, the responsibility to lead these institutions falls to human decision-makers who need to govern their citizens. My contribution aims to use insights from the behavioral sciences with regard to both state actors and citizens to explain the reasons behind the crisis of global constitutionalism. This will form the basis of a prediction of its future trajectory. Central lines of inquiry will be the formation of trust in institutions, the role of information, and mechanisms to induce both self-restraint and resilience.

Paulina Starski, Political Parties

The paper will focus on political parties as interfaces and "transmission belt" between society and the state and other polities, in particular as instruments enhancing their legitimacy. A major emphasis will also be put on the role of European political parties and party families within the process of the Euro-pean integration, hence the transnational dimension of parties and its dynamics. The significance and potential dangers (e.g. the populist challenge) of parties for democracy, federalism and the rule of law will be analyzed looking at the present, past and also making predictions in terms of future developments.

Tomas Dumbrovsky, Popular Movements

The future seems bleak for constitutionalism, but bright for popular movements. The self-inflicted demise of Christian-social democratic constitutional majorities, that guarded the postwar constitutionalism, has opened space for challengers, who master new technologies of social communication to erect, with lightning speed, movements for their political ascendancy. Their aim is to repudiate the old regime, whose heart lies in liberal constitutionalism, by circumventing its guardians, from parliaments to courts, and appealing directly to the masses. There are number of indicators that the radicalization of electorate will continue, making popular movements ever more central to constitutional politics. The adherents of liberal constitutionalism would need to respond with the same weapons – organizing popular movements for radical reconstruction of the broken system.