

DOING DEMOCRACY: ARTS, POLITICS AND CULTURE

**CULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS SUMMER SEMINAR, FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2023,
Konferencecenteret, M1, Fredrik Nielsens Vej 4, Bygning 1421, 8000 Århus C**



Democratic states as well as neoliberal economic policies are critiqued for producing still increasing inequality, mistrust/resentment, alienation, and polarization. We are witnessing democracies turning more and more authoritarian as well as social unrest and uprisings in 'old' democracies that on the one hand could be seen as attacking the very idea of democracy but that also could be seen as a demand for more local self-determination and more direct democratic forms of governance.

These developments are increasingly objects of political and academic concern. To expand democratic inclusion, local governments introduce initiatives to involve and engage citizens, while the EU commission launches research calls asking us to "stand up for democracy" and to develop "democratic governance for times of disruptive changes to the social contract." Simultaneously, artists and citizens, cultural spaces and social activists try to imagine and configure alternative forms of democracy, which may be more every-day and doable.

At the seminar we will explore different democracy experiments and their impact in a variety of settings ranging from socially engaged art projects and democratized cultural institutions to connective actions, spontaneous bottom-up initiatives and more organized social activism.

The seminar is organized by Birgit Eriksson and Britta Timm Knudsen on behalf of the research programme Cultural Transformations. It is free and open for all, academics as well as practitioners.



Programme

10:00: Introduction

10:15: Federico Tarragoni: Fighting for democracy. A sociology of Nuit debout activists

11.30: Coffee

**11.45: Cristina Flesher Fominaya: Addressing Democratic Challenges: Some insights from social movements
Jan Løhmann Stephensen: Chat Democracy and Deliberative Auxiliaries**

12.45: Lunch

13.30: Pascal Gielen: Towards a politics of vulnerability: Art, urban intimacies and the aesthetics of democracies

14.45: Coffee

**15.00: Louise Ejgod Hansen & Christiane Oved Særkjær: Children as cultural citizens
Julie Krog: A new role for public libraries in democracy?**

16.00: Break

**16.15: Beatriz Gonzalez: Creating spaces with agency to act: The youth voice matter project
Birgit Eriksson: Can democracy be knitted? Making things and people matter**

17.15: Closure

Registration at [Doing Democracy: Arts, Politics and Cultura \(au.dk\)](https://www.doingdemocracy.dk)

