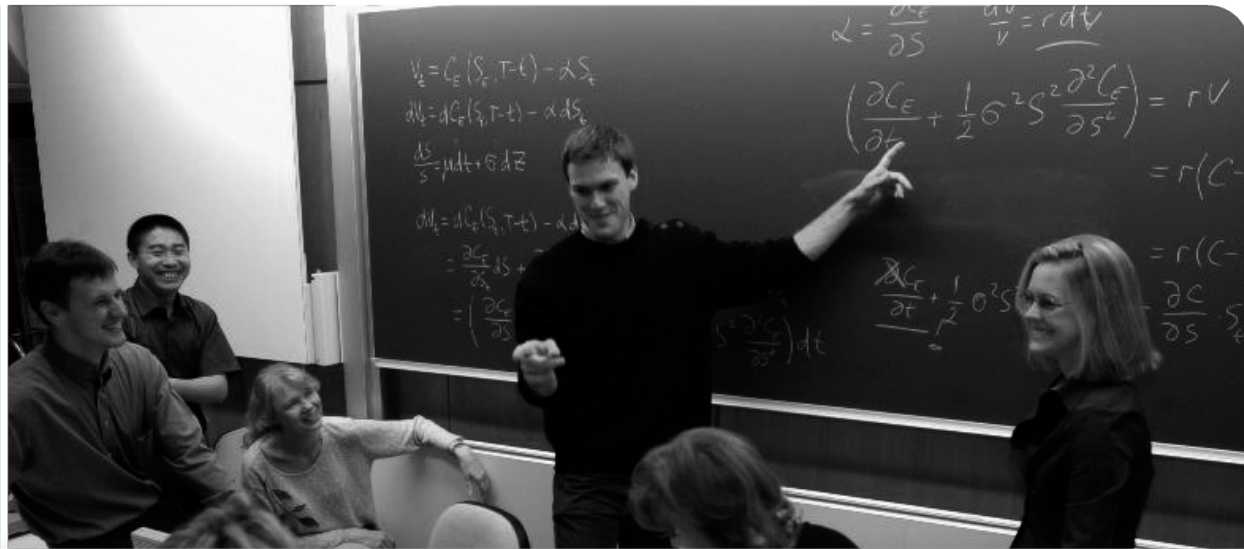


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# The hollowing out of democracy?

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# DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS?

Politics, Governance and Policy

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- EU democratic deficit?
- Democratic deficit also present at national level and much larger in other transnational spheres of governance
- National level: power concentration
  - presidentialization
  - “court” government
  - mediatization ⇒ personalization
  - national executives domestically reinforced by internationalization
- National level: power fragmentation
  - cooperative governance is pluralist but...

... impediments to accountability:

- “problem of many hands”
- weak visibility and codification of networks
- “meta-governance” ⇒ “rise of the unelected” (F. Vibert)
- In the same direction? Agencification and judicialization
- Transnational level
  - Transnational institutions
  - Transnational networks of governmental agents
  - Hybrid and private forms of governance

- Lack of congruence and mismatch between policy-makers and –takers
- Disjuncture between front- and backstage, divorce between politics and policy-making
- Shift of *de facto* political power (capacity to impact *in fine* on collectively binding decisions that lead to resource/values reallocation) to sites that are not (or only indirectly) formally authorized to rule
- Extension or even disruption of the chain of delegation
- Hollowing out of democracy, however not the outcome of deliberate design
- Losers easier to identify than winners: party organizations, parliaments, individuals as voters

- Counter-processes exist but must be strengthened:
  - “Reparliamentarization”
  - Participatory initiatives and deliberative experiments
- Increase public awareness of changes ⇒ risk?  
  
⇒ democratic critique should not be monopolized by populists!