The weaknesses of representative democracy, the recurring problems in the process of political representation, and the partial failure of government accountability led to an increasing discontent of citizens towards political institutions and politicians. The latter have gradually abandoned the traditional modes of involvement (electoral turnout, party membership). One of the solutions to address this ‘democratic malaise’ has been the adoption of different democratic innovations (especially in the form of direct democracy and dialogue-oriented procedures) aiming to foster the effective inclusion of citizens in political decision-making. Over the last three decades democratic innovations gained momentum throughout the world both in terms of rules and use. In spite of these developments, there are very few university courses discussing the functioning and consequences of democratic innovations.

The summer school on democratic innovations addresses this problem and seeks to provide students with a fuller understanding of democratic innovations. The courses will discuss in detail their effects on communities, structures, systems, policies and citizens’ participation. The summer school aims to identify and assess the benefits, disadvantages, functioning and challenges of democratic innovations in contemporary representative democracies. To achieve these objectives, the summer school will combine a broad array of theoretical approaches (made available to students in the reading package of every course) with methodological and empirical perspectives in every course (i.e. a hands-on approach). The sessions are divided in five days of teaching that alternate between the major types of innovations: direct democracy, dialogue-oriented, and mixed as well as innovations in elections and electoral systems. Students will be encouraged to actively participate in a series of applied exercises that will reveal the complexities of democratic innovations. The lecturers are experienced researchers in the fields of political representation and democratic innovations and all course of the summer school follow a student-centred approach.

The first two editions, organized in 2017 and in 2018, was a major success with over 20 participants from two-dozen different countries, selected out of a several dozen applications. The website created for the event is available at: https://deminnov.wixsite.com/summerschool.
We invite applications from advanced Master students and PhD students from all across Europe and the world. Applicants should fill in the form available at https://deminnov.wixsite.com/summerschool no later than 1 April 2019 and ideally before as applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Successful applicants will have to make their own travel arrangements. Thanks to the support of the COST Action “Constitution-making and deliberative democracy” and the organizing universities and partners, the registration fee amounts to only 100 € and covers accommodation, meals, coffee breaks, and all teaching activities in Brussels from Monday (26 August) till Friday (30 August). Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from Brussels.

Overview of the programme:

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<th>Day 1 Mon. 27/8</th>
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<td>Arrivals at the Youth Hostel Jacques Brel</td>
<td>9:30-12:30 The use and misuse of direct democracy, by Sergiu Gherghina</td>
<td>9:30-12:30 Deliberative mini-publics, by Didier Caluwaerts, Vincent Jacquet and Christoph Niessen</td>
<td>9:30-12:30 Democratic innovations in the European Union, by Marie Dufrasne and Dimitri Lemaire</td>
<td>9:30-12:30 Workshop of presentations and discussions of papers on democratic innovations</td>
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<td>16:30-18:30 Welcome reception</td>
<td>16:30-18:30 Practitioner Talk by James MacCleary on the referendum campaign for Brexit</td>
<td>16:30-18:30 Free time in Brussels</td>
<td>16:30-18:30 Farewell reception</td>
<td>Departures</td>
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<td>19:00 Dinner at Youth Hostel Jacques Brel</td>
<td>19:00 Dinner at Youth Hostel Jacques Brel</td>
<td>19:00 Dinner at Youth Hostel Jacques Brel</td>
<td>19:00 Dinner at Youth Hostel Jacques Brel</td>
<td>Home sweet home</td>
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Locations:
1. All teaching activities: Université Saint-Louis – Brussels: Room 3300, in the building, 119 rue du Marais, 1000 Brussels
2. Accommodation: Youth Hostel Jacques Brel: Rue de la Sablonnière 30, 1000 Brussels
Programme day by day:

Democratic Innovations: An Introduction, by Sergiu Gherghina
One way to address the growing dissatisfaction of citizens with representative democracy was the adoption and use of democratic innovations. Direct democracy and dialogue-oriented procedures gained momentum as they provide citizens a say in the decision-making and will formation process. At the same time, they are criticized for their faults such as leaving room for populism and low level of competence. This course will identify the major theoretical and empirical developments and challenges of direct and deliberative democracy with a focus on their functioning and consequences.

The use and misuse of direct democracy, by Sergiu Gherghina
The seminar will start with a short history of direct democracy and then proceed to debate about the different types and typologies. The developments of direct democratic rules in selected countries will be introduced as well as the current situation worldwide (as far as possible on national and subnational level). The seminar will then inform about the use of direct democratic rules in several countries (national and the subnational level). Finally we will discuss empirical findings on effects of direct democratic procedures, e.g. on policies and on citizens’ political attitudes.

Do citizens really want democratic innovations, by Jean-Benoit Pilet
While several innovations seek to move the democratic system beyond its current predominant electoral feature, the question is whether citizens really want such democratic innovations. This lecture offers an overview of the broad array of innovations and the opinions of citizens towards them. So doing, students will be invited to reflect on the causes and consequences of such innovations and about the changes and transformations they might bring about.

Democratic deliberative mini-publics, by Didier Caluwaerts, Vincent Jacquet and Christoph Niessen
Deliberative democratic theory has made an empirical turn in the last ten years, as deliberative mini-publics are increasingly used as vehicles to empirically test theoretical claims. In this seminar, we will deal with several aspects of mini-publics. First of all, we will look at the design of mini-publics and the effect of design choices. Secondly, we will critically analyze the role deliberative mini-publics can, should and do play in the wider deliberative and political system. Finally, we will look at the limitations of mini-public research, and try to offer some way of mediating the problems related to the use of mini-publics. Each aspect will be illustrated with real world cases and will be based on the most recent academic work. The second part of the lecture will address the most important practical issues in the organization of deliberative mini-publics. Proceeding in three steps, we will focus on the preparation, the conduction and the follow-up of the process. The content will be guided by empirical evidence and observed experiences from the several mini-publics.

Democratic innovations in the European Union, by Marie Dufrasne and Dimitri Lemaire
This course will explore the emergence and impact of several democratic innovations which aim to increase and deepen citizen participation in the European political process. It will focus on the ways in which such innovations may diminish the democratic deficit in the EU, their forms, main challenges and important consequences. The topic will cover deliberative and direct democracy attempts in the EU with particular emphasis on the European Citizen's Initiative (ECI).
**Short presentation of the team:**

**Didier Caluwaerts** is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the VUB. His research interests include deliberative and participatory democracy. He was previously a post-doctoral researcher of the FWO at the VUB and a Democracy Fellow at the Harvard Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. His PhD (2011, VUB) dealt with deliberative democracy in divided societies. It was awarded the 2012 ECPR Jean Blondel PhD award. He is also the winner of the 2010 ECPR Dirk Berg-Schlosser award, and co-organizer of the G1000 citizens' summit (2011).

**Marie Dufrasne** is professor of Information and Communication at Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles and invited researcher at CEDITEC (Université Paris-Est-Créteil, France). Her theoretical focus is on citizen participation theories, and her research interests are situated in participatory mechanisms and communicational practices around participation. She specialized on participatory practices and registers of engagement at the European level. She also contributes to researches about digital literacy and practices of interaction and participation in the media sphere.

**Sergiu Gherghina** is Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the Department of Politics, University of Glasgow. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Leiden University (2012). His research interests lie in party politics, legislative and voting behavior, democratization, and the use of direct democracy. His authored and co-authored works were published in journals such as *American Journal of Political Science, Comparative European Politics, Democratization, East European Politics, European Union Politics, Government and Opposition, Party Politics or Political Studies.*

**Vincent Jacquet** holds a PhD in political science from the Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium, where he is a F.R.S.-FNRS post-doctoral researcher. He graduated from the Université de Liège. His research interests are participatory and deliberative democracy, political participation and local politics. His PhD thesis investigated citizens’ refusal to take part in deliberative mini-public and criminal juries.

**Dimitri Lemaire** studied environmental management in Buenos Aires between 1996 and 2001. From 2002, he refocused his activities in Europe and gradually specialized in public speaking and coaching business. He worked in both Germany and Belgium for the public and private sector. In 2009, he became Assistant to the Vice-President of the European Parliament and was responsible for the establishment of participatory mechanisms within the institution. In 2014, Dimitri Lemaire left the European institutions to co-found Inventio Group.

**Christoph Niessen** holds a Master degree in Political Sciences from Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium and an additional Master in Political Science at Central European University in Hungary, focusing on Constitutional Politics and Nationalism Studies. He works on deliberative mini-publics and their relation with stakeholders as well as on issues of federalism and minority rights.

**Jean-Benoit Pilet** is a professor of Political Science at the Université libre de Bruxelles. He works on elections, electoral system, political parties and representation. He is the co-author of *Faces on the Ballot; The Personalization of Electoral Systems in Europe* (with Alan Renwick) and *The Politics of Political Party Leadership in Comparative Perspective* (with William Cross).

**Min Reuchamps** is professor of political science at the Université catholique de Louvain and coordinator of the methodology for the G1000 in Belgium. He is the Chair of the COST Action “Constitution-making and deliberative democracy”.
Local organizing committee:

Didier Caluwaerts, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Sophie Devillers, Université de Namur & Université catholique de Louvain
Marie Dufrasne, Université Saint-Louis – Brussels
Vincent Jacquet, Université catholique de Louvain
Christoph Niessen, Université de Namur & Université catholique de Louvain
Jean-Benoit Pilet, Université libre de Bruxelles
Min Reuchamps, Université catholique de Louvain

Scientific committee:

Didier Caluwaerts, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Florence Delmotte, Université Saint-Louis – Brussels
Sergiu Gherghina, University of Glasgow
Jean-Benoit Pilet, Université libre de Bruxelles
Min Reuchamps, Université catholique de Louvain

This Summer school “Democratic innovations in Europe and in the European Union” is an initiative of the ECPR Standing Group on Democratic Innovations and jointly organized by the Université Saint-Louis – Brussels, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Université de Bruxelles and the Université catholique de Louvain, with the support of the COST Action “Constitution-making and deliberative democracy”, the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS and the French-speaking Belgian Political Science Association (ABSP)