

“The University and the City”

Democratic Innovations: Engaging citizens in politics

The intent of democratic governance and the essence of Democratic Innovations are succinctly summarised in Abraham Lincoln’s 1863 Gettysburg Address: “Government of the people, by the people, for the people.” The goal of this conference is to share local experience including active citizens’ participation into political decision-making processes with sister cities of Frankfurt am Main. Thus, we hope to initiate an international dialogue on how to innovate democratic practices and institutions such that government truly is “of the people, by the people, for the people.”

We will focus on two key questions:

1. How does local democracy work in sister cities of Frankfurt am Main?
2. What are successful models to involve citizens in political decision-making processes in times of serious challenges to representative democracy through a fractalisation of political camps, a decreasing sense of allegiance to political parties, and simultaneously increasing demands for direct participation?

The conference will provide a basis to engage political practitioners with academia in a discourse about the future structure and practices of democracy.

Program “The University and the City” from July 1st to July 2nd, 2021

Time	Program	Important Information
Thursday, July 1st, 2021		
10:00 to 10:45	Official welcome by Deputy Mayor Dr. Ina Hartwig (City of Frankfurt am Main) President Prof. Dr. Enrico Schleiff (Goethe University Frankfurt)	Kaisersaal, Römer Römerberg 23
10:45 to 12:15	Political panel on Democratic Innovations, innovative democratic practices and citizens’ demands. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Brigitte Geißel	Kaisersaal, Römer Römerberg 23
12:15 to 12:30	Signing of the “Frankfurt Declaration on the Future of Democracy”	Kaisersaal, Römer Römerberg 23
12:30 to 13:00	Dialogue with the audience	Kaisersaal, Römer Römerberg 23

13:00 to 14:30	Joint lunch of political representatives and academics	
14:30 to 16:00	City tour "Neue Altstadt und Paulskirche" (New Old City Center and St. Paul's Church)	Meeting-point, Römer
19:00 to 20:00	Evening lecture by Prof. Dr. Brigitte Geißel: "Democratic Innovations in European Cities – driving force for thriving democracies?"	Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Westend Festsaal Casino Raum 823
Starting 20:00	Informal reception	
Friday, July 2nd, 2021		
10:00 to 12:00	Academia Meets Politics. Moderation: Prof. Dr. Brigitte Geißel and Prof. Dr. Rolf van Dick	Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Westend Festsaal Casino Raum 823
12:00 to 13:00	Lunch)	
13:00 to 15:00	PhDr. Zdenka Mansfeldová, CSc. (Prag): <i>Participatory budgeting in the Czech Republic</i> Prof. Dr. Zoltán Pállinger (Budapest): <i>Democratic Innovations in the Context of Illiberal Democracy in Hungary</i> Dr. rer. pol. Momoyo Hüstebeck (University of Duisburg-Essen): <i>Planning cells in Japanese cities – For the sake of local democracy or just window dressing?</i> Prof. Alessandro Coppola (Milano): <i>Democratic Innovations in Milano (working title)</i> Christos J. Paraskevopoulos, PhD (Thessaloniki): <i>Quality of Democracy and Quality of Government Innovations in Greece during the Covid Crisis/Pandemic</i> Dr. Katarzyna Eliaz (Krakow): <i>Democratic freedom and democratic participation</i> Moderation: Prof. Dr. Brigitte Geißel and Prof. Dr. Rolf van Dick	Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Westend Festsaal Casino Raum 823
15:00	End of the conference	