

CALL FOR PAPERS

DEMOCRATIC FUTURES
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
CRISES
EMOTIONS

**15th Central and Eastern
European Forum of Young
Legal, Political and Social
Theorists**

**14th - 15th of September
2023
Kraków, Poland
Faculty of Law
Jagiellonian University**



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15th CEE Forum of Young Legal, Political and Social Theorists
14-15.09.2023, Kraków, Poland

Democratic futures

New technologies, crises, emotions

Democracy is a multi-faceted concept with rich history and various iterations throughout the ages, spaces and cultures. It is always an open-ended project that has entertained the minds of many and is at the forefront of current debates about the future. At this year's Forum we want to focus on the idea of democracy and its possible futures from Central and Eastern European perspectives. As the future always develops out of the present and the past, we wish to explore the intersections of these timescapes in building and reproducing new worlds and ideas. Three broad aspects of what is already taking place and what might become of it in the future are the main streams of reflection we've chosen for the conference: technologies, crises and emotions. By being inherent in modern world, all affect democracy in different ways.

Technology is an integral part of our lives. Its new advancements can often define and reshape what is possible and thinkable in our world. What is therefore its effect on democracy? What kind of technologies can democratic practices use? Are current technologies sustainable in possible democratic worlds? Does technology influence political subjects and their rights? It is also worth thinking about technologies in another meaning of the term: What are the technologies of the democratic process itself? Are there any new ways of practicing democracy worldwide? Is there a place for new democratic technologies in Central and Eastern Europe? What are the dynamics of democratic practice and change? There is no future without technologies and democratic thought must account for them.

Crises of all kinds are well-known in the social sciences to be rather inevitable. They bring dangers, but also revivals. How should we conceptualize the crises of liberal democracies in some Central and Eastern European states? Will this social form survive? What emotions take source in crisis events and how do they impact politics? What kind of challenges does the climate and ecological crises pose to democratic practice and thought? What are the adequate democratic tools for managing crises? What is the relationship between constitutional provisions and crisis situations? The future will certainly bring ever different conflicts, so it is crucial to study them in advance.

Emotions are an important part of being a human. However, in many legal and political traditions, emotions are often contrasted to rationality. Is the ideal legal image of a rational person tenable? Is it possible to turn the conflict between the rational and the irrational into an asset? What is the role, if any, of emotions and intuition in political life? Should they matter in law? Are democratic bureaucracies in line with human emotionality? What emotions do political actors raise to achieve their aims and at what cost? Is democracy threatened by emotion-changing, ever-present algorithms? What is the emotional and cognitive basis of democratic legitimacy? Emotions were always there, so it's important to think about how they impact democracy in different contexts.

We welcome, however, all contributions broadly relevant to the main topic: **democratic futures** and/or any of the three streams. Many possible futures must be thought through first before they can unfold. Our meeting's aim is to reflect on the past, present and especially the future of democratic politics, law and society from the perspective of Central and Eastern Europe.

We encourage all legal, social and political theorists to apply, even if main topics aren't of your scientific speciality, because there will be **special open panel** for research fields generally connected with the spirit of CEE Forum.

Sample topics of the papers

Some examples of topics on which the contributions to the conference can be made:

- New technologies and democracy: dangers and opportunities
- Digital technologies and civil society
- New or alternative political and democratic practices and ideas worldwide
- Democracy, sustainability and technology
- Crises of democracy: citizenship and political practice in troubled times
- Russian invasion in Ukraine and its political, legal and social consequences
- Climate and ecological crisis and its relation to democratic politics, law and society
- Economies of crises and their legal, political and social implications
- Emotions and rationality in legal and political discourse
- Persuasive politics: does the emotional beat the rational for connecting with citizens?
- History of emotions in law, politics and society
- Emotions, law and political legitimacy

Practical information

The conference is aimed at students, PhD students as well as young post-docs and professors coming from all over the world (not only from Central and Eastern Europe).

The conference language is English. If you wish to participate, please send us an abstract of about 300-500 words at cee.forum2023@gmail.com by **30th of June 2023**. We will send the acceptance of papers by 12th of July 2023. Following the acceptance, we will await payment of the participation fee until 5th of August 2023.

After the conference, selected participants will be invited to submit their papers for publication in a volume of the conference proceedings, our Central and Eastern European Forum for Legal, Political, and Social Theory Yearbook.

The participation fee is 100 EUR and covers conference materials, coffee and snacks during the breaks, as well as lunch meals and joint dinner. We kindly ask participants to arrange and pay for their travel and accommodation individually. We will advise on lodging and directions as well as communicate the payment instructions to accepted participants via email.

In case you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Organising Committee via our conference email: cee.forum2023@gmail.com



This year's Forum is organized at the Jagiellonian University by its students and doctoral candidates, the Chair of Philosophy of Law and Legal Ethics and in cooperation with Future Law Lab.

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