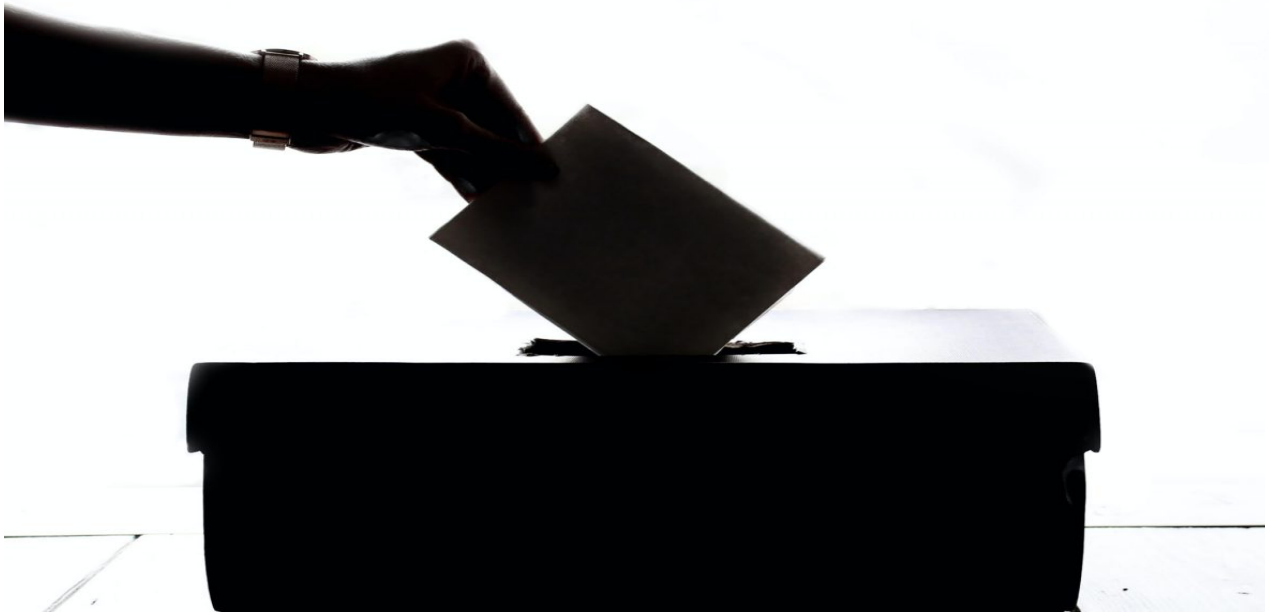


The Long Year of Elections: An Interdisciplinary Workshop



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**6 March 2025, 3pm – 6 pm
Building One – Bateman Lecture Theatre**

During 2024, apparently 1.7 billion people participated in elections in something like 80 countries across the world. If we include in the list a number of other significant general elections taking place in the Autumn of 2023 (Poland, Argentina, New Zealand, the Netherlands), and in February 2025 (Germany), this has certainly been a Long Year of Elections.

Elections are often considered to be the kernel of democracy: no democracy without free elections. But, as the former president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, has written in a recent article, the general feeling after this long year of election may well be “that democracy is more threatened than ever”. This is not just because some of these elections have taken place in authoritarian regimes, where elections are rituals for state and government self-legitimation; but also for the sense of disenchantment that increasing numbers of citizens in established constitutional democracies have with the power of elections, or the way in which electoral democracy seems incapable of providing and maintaining a functioning representative system, the rule of law, and a fair society. On the contrary, in some cases, elections seem to encourage democratic backsliding.

This workshop on *The Long Year of Elections* is an opportunity to provide information and analysis of some of the many elections across the world; to discuss general geo-political electoral trends; and to examine the role of elections in different kinds of political regimes, questioning the very relationship between elections and democracy, or the way in which elections can also have an effect beyond their political boundaries.

Panel 1: 3pm – 4 pm: Chair and introduction: Dario Castiglione

Eleanor Gao: Ballots and backlash: Exploring the dynamics of post-election protests in nondemocratic regimes (co-authored with Elena Gadjanova)

Vadim Atnash: Russian Interference in the 2024 Georgian and Moldovan Presidential Elections

Raphael Girard: Ballots Without Borders? Legal and Practical Challenges of Non-Resident Voting from a Comparative Perspective

Panel 2: 4pm – 4.45 pm: Chair Sandra Kröger

Dan Stevens: The Authoritarian Dynamic and Perceptions of Democracy

Hannah Bunting: Citizens and Political Parties (UK)

Roundtable: 5 pm – 6 pm: Chair Marc Valeri

Sandra Kröger: Threats to Democracy from Algocracy

Cat Owen: Are Elections still the Central Factor in Determining Whether a Regime is Democratic ?

Catherine Dupre: Democracy through Law: Significance of Human Dignity and Human Rights Law

Reception: 6.00-6.30 pm

Participation in this event is free, but please register at [The Long Year of Elections | Fixr](#).

To follow the workshop online, please go to

[The Long Year of Elections | Teams link](#)

Meeting ID: 317 412 345 480

Passcode: Vk3BY3jE

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