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Co-funded by the
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EuroClio

A RESILIENT PROMISE: TEACHING THE FRAGILITY OF DEMOCRACY

Online | 15 September - 27 October 2021



EuroClio
Inspiring History and Citizenship Educators

A EuroClio Webinar Series



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

*Dates to be confirmed

A webinar series on democracy education Programme



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Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

August, 2021

Structure of the programme

15 September - 27 October 2021

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Opening session

Keynote lecture:

Allure of authoritarianism and modern populism

Live session on 15 September 2021

17:00 - 19:00 CEST

To deal with the challenges that modern democracy is facing today requires that we have mastered our concepts, spotted the various challengers, and considered how they relate to the current problems and future prospects of modern democracy. This keynote clarifies the concepts of liberal democracy and populism, distinguishes between populist and nativist parties, and shows how those two different types of parties affect liberal democracy in Europe and beyond.

This keynote lecture is given by Prof. Takis S Pappas (PhD, Yale), a former professor of political science in Greece and currently a scholar associated with the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has written several books - the most recent is *Populism and Liberal Democracy: A Comparative and Theoretical Analysis* (Oxford University Press, 2019). He has produced several policy briefs, a TED-Ed video on populism, and a series of infographics that popularize the topics he does academic research on. He is a regular columnist in major Greek newspaper *Kathimerini* and maintains the blog www.pappaspopulism.com.



Teaching democracy:

Collection of classroom experiences

As part of this webinar series, we also want to share different teaching practices related to democracy!

The main goal of this new session is to create networking and synergies between teachers all around Europe.



21 September
17:00 CEST

Please fill in this [google form](#) if you are interested either in sharing your teaching practice, or just listen to them. In case you would like to present your practice, add a brief description and keep in mind that you will have 10 minutes to present it and a few more minutes of interactive session with the rest of the participants. No presentation is needed, it's just a moment for you to tell us what and how you do it when teaching democracy to your students.

We will collect between 8 – 10 practices, and we will confirm one day before if the event takes place regarding the minimum participation.

If you have any questions please contact adriana@euroclio.eu.

Three active workshops (1)

1. Workshop: Freedom of expression

How to balance between conflicting democratic rights when discussing controversy?

Teaching history or social sciences is a challenge nowadays. The world is polarized. We are confronted with terrorist attacks, pandemics and unstable global politics and all these events have great consequences for many. Uncertainty caused by these crises can lead to heightened distrust of others with different cultural or political backgrounds; it also can make people more conformist and people's moral judgements can become harsher.

In this workshop we will discuss how teachers can respond to polarizing narratives and can balance between essential democratic rights, such as: freedom of speech and the right not to be discriminated. We consider schools as labs for democracy in which students can learn to disagree and learn to deal and act with different opinions harmoniously. During discussions, students can learn how to express disagreement with each other, within the boundaries of respect and moral decency towards each other. As John Dewey said: "Democrats are made, not born". For example: how to discuss confronting and discriminatory memes in the classroom?

Live session on 30 September 2021

16:00 - 18:00 Amsterdam Time

Hosted by Dr. Bjorn Wansink and Maxine Herinx, Utrecht University.

Both trainers are part of the project TerInfo. TerInfo is a mobile web platform aimed to increase societal resilience against terrorism and other disruptive events in primary, secondary, and post-vocational education. The platform helps teachers to discuss controversial topics with groups of different ages in a clear, factual, responsible and engaging way. TerInfo is an initiative of Utrecht University and led by prof. Beatrice de Graaf.

Three active workshops (2)

2. Workshop on understanding the history of democracy

This workshop is inspired by the eLearning Activity on “What can we learn from the Ancient Greeks for democracy today?”

The Ancient Athenian Democracy was one of the first democracies in world history, and also one of the most far-reaching ones. All citizens were allowed to speak up in the Assembly, could serve as juries and judges and could hold office. Taking part in the Assembly was even paid, enabling the poorest citizens. However, this democracy was at the same time quite frail. Not only was citizenship, and civil power, restricted to Athenian, freeborn and adult males. Women, slaves and people from foreign origin had no significant power. Also, in the fifth century BCE, this democracy radicalised, giving populists more power than they ever had. This radicalisation led to cases of serious mistreatment of Athens' allies and seems to have contributed to policies that led to her defeat in the Peloponnesian War.

This workshop explores the development of the Athenian Democracy from prior constitutions as oligarchy and tyranny. It will discuss the frail elements in the democratic constitution and the social causes that led to its radicalisation in order to draw some cautious lesson for our world today.



Hosted by Gijs van Gaans

Gijs van Gaans studied history and religious science at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. He has taught history and latin in secondary schools. From 2009 onwards he has worked as a teacher trainer/ lecturer of didactics in history and religious education at Fontys University of Applied Sciences and since the start of this academic year also at Amsterdam University. His main interests are the development of a critical historical consciousness and developing skills that allow for inter-worldview dialogue.

Three active workshops (3)

3. Workshop: Engagement and Activism

Democracy thrives on change and adaptation to current living conditions. Politics is the instrument and the form of these adjustments. Politics in a democracy gives citizens the opportunity to get involved in the processes of change or to take them into their own hands.

What opportunities does a democracy offer? How do changes or adjustments happen? Where does resistance come from and how can it be understood or overcome? In the session 'Engagement and Activism', participants will get to know an exciting instrument that helps them and their students to observe and understand processes of change, but also helps young people to become active and get involved themselves.



Live session on 19 October 2021

17:00 - 19:00 Amsterdam Time

**Hosted by Prof. Dr. Rolf Gollob,
Zurich University of Teacher Education.**

Rolf Gollob, Prof. Dr. h.c., was founder and co-head of the Department International Projects in Education (IPE) at Zurich University of Teacher Education from 2007 – 2018. Initially he has worked as a primary teacher before he studied Cultural Anthropology at the University of Zurich and then became lecturer at the Zurich University of Teacher Education. For the last 25 years, he worked at this University in the area of democracy and intercultural education and has been a consultant in a global context focusing on teacher training, issues of competence-orientation in schools and higher education institutions, text book and curriculum development.

Closing interactive session

27 October 2021
17:00 - 19:00 Amsterdam Time



The webinar series will close with an interactive session where participants will have the opportunity to share the obstacles they encounter when talking about democracy in their classroom, and to discuss approaches on how to overcome these obstacles.