

Call for Papers: What is Democracy?

10th Annual “What is...?” Conference
Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon
Saturday, April 22th, 2017 – EMU Room
Deadline for submissions: **MARCH 24, 2017 5pm**

The notion of democracy has a far-reaching history in political and philosophical thought. Spanning from the Ancients to the contemporary world, democracy has emerged as a dominant organizational structure for politics, at least in the West. Democracy has been largely characterized as a political system that guarantees political action, social organization, basic liberties, and the respect of human rights. And yet these by no means exhaust the notion and practice of democracy. The rise of new political movements of different ideological casts shaping the political landscape in the contemporary world — from ultra conservative parties and radical conservative regimes to new socialist and populist movements—demands that we engage the question of democracy anew in all its urgency.

Topics could include (but are not limited to):

- Democracy and nationalism
 - Democracy and ethics
 - Limits of democracy
 - Manifestations of democracy and history
 - Democracy and religion
 - Democracy and capitalism
 - Globalization and democratic practice(s)
 - Identity politics and democracy
 - Corruption and democracy
 - Democracy and ideology
 - Democracy and representation
 - Alternatives to democracy
 - Democracy and inclusiveness
 - Democracy and justice
 - Democracy and human rights
 - Democracy and animals
 - Democracy and populism
 - Democracy and socialism
 - Democracy and feminism
- Radical democracy

Submission Guidelines

Please submit abstracts (of approximately 500 words) for a presentation of 15-20 minutes. All submissions should include a cover sheet indicating: your name, title of the paper, graduate or undergraduate status, and can be emailed on/before **March 24, 2017** to whatisdemocracy2017@gmail.com.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Oscar Ralda (oralda@uoregon.edu), Juan Ospina (jospina@uoregon.edu), Amy Nigh (anigh@uoregon.edu)