

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE  
INSTITUTIONS OF PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION  
IN DEMOCRACIES

**Terms and concepts to know:**

Clientelism	Open-list proportional representation
Closed-list proportional representation	Party system
Collective action problem	Peak associations
Dominant-party system	Plurality
Duverger's law	Populism
Electoral systems	Proportional representation (PR)
"First past the post" (FPTP)	Single-member district
Interest-group pluralism	Social capital
Mixed, or semiproportional	State corporatism
Multiparty systems	Two-party system
Neocorporation	Virtual representation

**Study and discussion questions:**

1. Do some types of institutions in democracies provide better overall representation of and influence for average citizens?
2. How do institutions affect the representation of ethnic, gender, religious, and other groups?
3. Why do people join political parties and participate in other kinds of political activity?
4. How do different electoral and party systems affect leaders' behavior?
5. Why does Dixon argue Green Parties have not "taken off"? Should they? If so, what can be done to make them more viable in a two-party system?
6. How does Michael Löwy explain the rise of far-right politics around the globe? What is his hypothesis, and does it seem plausible to you?
7. What is "corporatism", and do you agree with Enjeti that it is a "bipartisan" scourge?
8. Author Vincent Navarro believes that the U.S. political system has "a baked-in bias towards the far-right that makes it very difficult to enact basic policies that benefit the majority of the people." What evidence does he give for this and do you see this as insurmountable or even a significant problem?

**Readings:**

Orvis / Drogus – Chapter 6

**Video:**

*Pay to Play: Democracies High Stakes.*