

Call for papers for the conference on Democracy and Participation (Lisbon, 12-15 July 2017)

Please find below the call for papers for the conference on Democracy and Participation in the 21st Century organised at the University of Lisbon 12-15 July 2017 (<http://pascal.iseg.utl.pt/~socius/eventos/ISA-RC10/index.shtml>). In order to send an abstract, please contact the session organisers via email before the **12 March 2017**.

Session 6.4. Mandate type, participation as democratisation or deliberation as a limit?

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Imperative mandates are generally considered contrary to the spirit of liberal representative democracy in which elected representatives must be free to speak and make decisions in the best interest of the whole political community, as opposed to a specific section of society. This session aims to engage with research on the relationship between mandate type (free or imperative) and the implications for participation, deliberation, political patronage, populism and other consequences for current political systems. Is it possible to consider that a free mandate expands the distance between the representative and the represented, thereby contributing to the political crisis experienced by liberal democratic regimes? How do people perceive and react to the decision of elected representatives to share their 'mandate freedom' with the community, adopting participatory exercises to enable the co-creation and negotiation of political decisions within political constituencies or the electorate? The session especially welcomes papers from young and senior political science and sociology researchers in order to investigate the relationship between the mandate, the political system and the political commitment of the political community.