We will examine the relationship between two key families of concepts of contemporary democratic theory: deliberation and representation. We will do so through a wide range of recent studies, from histories of ancient oratory and contemporary philosophical debates to game-theoretic models of debate and empirical studies of deliberation in “real-world” and controlled settings.

Participants in the seminar will be expected to write weekly 2-page position papers, identifying and critically probing an issue of particular interest to them in a given week’s readings, and a 20-page research paper. The position papers will be due by 6pm of the day before the class meeting. The research paper will be due at the end of term.

Session 1: Introduction. Deliberation, a Journey: from Parliaments to Mini-publics


J. S. Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, ch. 5


Session 2: Citizen Deliberation: Mitigating Problems of Electoral Representation?


Session 3: Deliberation in Representative Bodies: Empirical Evidence


Session 4: Refining the Concept of Deliberation


Session 5: Deliberation and Persuasion. Deliberation as Self-discovery


Session 6: Strategic Models of Deliberation in Political Institutions


Session 7: Deliberation: Experimental Evidence


Session 8: Mini-publics: a Variety of Institutions


Session 9: Mini-publics: a Form of Representation?


Session 11: Rethinking Representation I: Representation as Advocacy


Session 12: Rethinking Representation II: Representation Without Elections?


Session 13: Deliberation and the Media


M. Prior, Post-Broadcast Democracy, Cambridge U.P., 2007, chs. TBD

Session 14: Rethinking Deliberation: Deliberation and Contestation