EPISTEMIC DEMOCRACY
Fall 2014
Dimitri Landa & Bernard Manin

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Meetings: Thursday 2:00-3:50pm
19 West 4th Street, Room 217

Office Hours: TBD

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.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

4 Sept.: Introduction. Justifications of democracy I: equality, self-government

Further reading:

11 Sept.: Justifications of democracy II: The social choice tradition

18 Sept.: Problems of democracy I: Problems of agency competence

25 Sept.: The case for expertise

2 Oct.: Problems of democracy II: problems of collective reasoning

9 Oct.: Discovering epistemic democracy: Ancient Athens

16 Oct.: The epistemic value of diversity and other such arguments
23 Oct.: The epistemic value of representation


30 Oct.: Epistemic Authority of Democracy


6 Nov.: Epistemic Accounts of Deliberation


13 Nov.: Epistemology I


20 Nov.: Epistemology II


Kelly, T. 2011, “Peer disagreement and higher order evidence”, *Social Epistemology: Essential readings*, Oxford University Press, 183-217

27 Nov.: Thanksgiving. No classes.
4 Dec.: Revisiting the epistemic models of democracy and deliberation


11 Dec.: Overview