

Programme of Putney Debates 2023

Democracy in Crisis?

9-11 May 2023



Webinar Registration

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v0qIqUToRSCBV1kA-G-nzg

PUTNEY DEBATES 2023: DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS?

Date/Time	Events	Speakers/moderators
3.00pm BST 9 th May 2023	Opening lecture	Richard Clary (Harvard Law School, OXGS Fellow)
		(Moderator) DJ Galligan (OXGS Director, Oxford University)
4.30pm BST 9 th May 2023	Panel 1: <i>Leadership in democratic systems</i>	Fui Tsikata (Member Advisory Board OXGS) Vlad Perju (Boston College Law School) Bogdan Iancu (Bucharest University, OXGS Fellow) Iris Canor (Striks School of Law, Colman Israel)
		(Moderator) Richard Clary
3.30 pm BST 10 th May 2023	Panel 2: <i>Institutions of government and their role in democracy</i>	Paul Craig (FBA, Oxford University) Sionaidh Douglas-Scott (Queen Mary University of London, OXGS Fellow) Ruzha Smilova (Sofia University Bulgaria) Frank Vibert (LSE, OXGS Fellow)
		(Moderator) Daniel Smilov (Sofia University, OXGS Fellow)
3.30 pm BST 11 th May 2023	Panel 3: <i>Electoral systems and political parties</i>	Nicole Stremlau (Oxford University & University of Johannesburg) Fernando Casal Bertoa (Nottingham University) Jurij Toplak (University of Alma Mater Europaea and Fordham University) Marcin Walecki (National Democratic Institute Ukraine)
5:00 pm BST 11 th May 2023	Concluding Lecture	Hon Malcolm Turnbull AC (Former Prime Minister of Australia)
Before 5 th May 2023	Regional lectures pre-recorded and uploaded to OXGS YouTube channel and OXGS Website	Zim Nwokor (Deakin University, Australia) Angana Chatterji (University of California, Berkeley) Pedro Fortes (UCAM Law School, Brazil)

Purpose and aims

The purpose of Putney Debates 2023 is to examine claims, now much announced and seemingly widely shared, that democracy is in trouble and in danger of collapsing, not only in the more fragile and unstable nations, but in the ancient home grounds, including the United Kingdom and the United States.

The aims of the debates are **(i)** to examine critically the claims of democracy being in crisis, with reference to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, Europe generally, and the United States of America, **(ii)** followed by review of the situation in several regions, Africa, India, South America, and Central & Eastern Europe.

This year's debates will proceed as follows:

Regional Lectures Regional Lectures are pre-recorded and available on the Oxford Global Society website from 5th May 2023: <https://oxgs.org>, as well as OXGS YouTube channel

1. **Africa:** *Zim Nwokora* DPhil Oxford, Senior Lecturer in Politics and Policy Studies, Deakin University, Australia
2. **India:** *Angana Chatterji* Co-Chair Initiative on Political Conflict, Gender and People's Rights and Research Anthropologist, Centre for Race & Gender, University of California, Berkeley
3. **South America:** *Pedro Fortes* DPhil Oxford, Professor of Law at UCAM Law School, Brazil

Opening lecture: 9th May 2023, 3.00pm BST

Richard Clary Fellow OXGS, Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law School

Panel discussion Three panels will discuss issues raised in the lectures and beyond. Each panellist is asked to make a presentation of up to 10 minutes and to take part in the discussion.

Panel 1: Leadership in democratic systems Tuesday 9th May 2023, 4.30pm BST

Moderator: *DJ Galligan* Director Oxford Global Society, Professor Emeritus Oxford University

Panellists:

Fui Tsikata BCL Oxford, Member Advisory Board OXGS, Senior lawyer and formerly teaching at University of Ghana

Bogdan Iancu Fellow OXGS, Associate Professor Bucharest University

Iris Canor Associate Professor at Striks School of Law, Colman Israel

PUTNEY DEBATES 2023: DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS?

Vlad Perju Professor at Boston College Law School

Panel 2: Institutions of government and their role in democracy Wednesday 10th May 2023, 3.30 pm BST

Moderator: *Richard Clary* (see above)

Panellists:

Sionaidh Douglas-Scott Fellow OXGS, Professor Queen Mary University of London, Honorary research fellow at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University

Ruzha Smilova Associate Professor at Sofia University Bulgaria

Paul Craig FBA, Professor Emeritus Oxford University

Frank Vibert Fellow OXGS, Associate CARR Centre, LSE

Panel 3: Electoral systems and political parties Thursday 11th May 2023, 3.30 pm BST

Moderator: *Daniel Smilov* Fellow OXGS, DPhil Oxford, Associate Professor Sofia University, Bulgaria

Panellists:

Nicole Stremlau Head of the Comparative Media Law & Policy Programme, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford University and Research Professor, University of Johannesburg

Fernando Casal Bertoa Associate professor at Nottingham University

Jurij Toplak Professor of law, Alma Mater Europaea and Fordham University

Marcin Walecki DPhil Oxford, Director National Democratic Institute Ukraine

Concluding Lecture: 11th May 2023, 5pm BST

Hon Malcolm Turnbull AC, BCL Oxford, Fellow Brasenose College Oxford, Former Prime Minister of Australia

Publication

It is proposed to publish a volume of the 2023 debates, edited by R Clary & DJ Galligan, composed as follows:

1. *Introduction* R Clary & DJ Galligan
2. *Opening chapter from opening lecture*
3. *Four chapters from the regional lectures*
4. *Short chapters from each of the panellists*
5. *Concluding chapter from final lecture*

Books from previous Putney Debates

Constitution In Crisis: The New Putney Debates (ed) DJ Galligan (London, I.B.Taurus, 2017) pp. xxv x. 175

The Courts and the People: Friend or Foe? (ed) DJ Galligan (Oxford, Hart Bloomsbury, 2021) pp. 251

History about Putney Debates

The original Putney Debates took place in October 1647 in St Mary's Church Putney. The civil war had been won, the king in captivity, the constitution in tatters. The weekly meetings of the High Council of the New Model Army, at its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Oliver Cromwell, turned into a conference on the constitution. Although the conference lasted five days, no certain outcome was reached, and the rest is history.

After the referendum of 2016 on membership of the European Union and the constitutional issues raised, the need for a regular forum for debate and deliberation became apparent. The Putney Debates were revived and ever since have taken place annually, the first three at St Mary's Church, in later years digitally, due to the restrictions on social occasions.

The debates are now sponsored by the Oxford Global Society, registered as a Community Interest Company under English Law: oxgs.org. OXGS is an independent, non-political institute, dedicated to the identification and analysis of subjects of international interest and importance, and to their presentation in a manner and form accessible to the public nationally and globally.

Debates from 2017-2020 are recorded at fljs.org. The debates of 2021 on the subject *The Unity of a Nation* are available at oxgs.org.