

## CALL *for* PAPERS

### *Debating Democracy & Rights: Methodological & Thematic Issues*

Civic Constellation II Project, Workshop I  
University of Málaga, 18–19 December 2015

Imagining the relation of democracy and rights as spontaneous, or even unproblematic, disregards their plural argumentative uses, the dissensual features of their relationship, and the many obstacles that hinder their fulfilments in practice. Furthermore, the close relationship of democracy and rights becomes utterly understandable through their tension and opposition.

Democracy is, indissolubly, a form of government and a political ideal. As a form of government it is conceived as a rights-based political regime. As an ideal, democracy matches the highest aspirations of rights claims, namely the realization of human rights. In either case the array of expectations on democracy has grown magnificently, and overwhelmingly, in recent times. To think about democracy means to think about rights, and the reverse can be easily argued. However, this apparent semantic, and even practical, fluidity from rights to democracy conceals their complex conceptual and institutional configurations.

Rights are, likewise, legal norms and institutional devices, as well as moral values and political ideals. These four conceptual dimensions are combined, and confused, in ordinary practices and political debates. Most frequently, they are usually conflated as institutional realities and moral values, in spite of having different kinds of justifications. This is especially revealing in the case of human rights, which are reductively argued as any of those dimensions.

This is the first workshop in a series of activities of Civic Constellation II, scheduled for the four years 2015 to 2018, aimed at the cooperation of project members and open to the participation of other scholars. The workshop welcomes paper proposals dealing with methodological and thematic issues in the study of democracy and rights, paying special attention to their reciprocal links. Some twenty papers will be selected for the programme.

#### **Convenors**

Manuel Toscano (mtoscano@uma.es) and José María Rosales (jmrosales@uma.es)

#### **Deadline** for submitting to both convenors

Paper proposals: titles and up to 150-word abstracts, Monday, 2 November 2015

Extended abstracts, or outlines, of accepted proposals: up to 1000 words, Monday, 23 November 2015

The Workshop is organized with the cooperation of *The Civic Constellation II: Debating Democracy and Rights* (Spain's National Research Fund, FI2014-52703-P) <http://www.uma.es/civicconstellation>, ... the names of other institutions will appear on the final programme

It will follow the two-day Doctoral Course *Democracy, Human Rights, and the Porous Boundaries Between Domestic and International Politics*, held at the University of Málaga on 16–17 December (<http://www.uma.es/doctorado-humanidades/cms/menu/actividades-academicas/actividades-formativas/seminarios-y-talleres-o-workshops>)