

# Narrowing the gap? Participation of women and immigrant-origin minorities in deliberative minipublics

02 October 2024, 12:30 - 13:30 Hybrid Event

## Abstract

The background of presentation is the Demoscan project ([www.demoscan.ch](http://www.demoscan.ch)) in the context of which about a dozen of deliberative minipublics (also called citizens' assemblies) were put in place in Switzerland, starting with "Demoscan Sion" in 2019. The minipublic participants are ordinary citizens who were randomly selected by using official registers of population in the respective polities (canton, municipality, neighbourhood). An unexpected finding from these experiments highlights a very strong (above average) interest of women and immigrant-origin citizens to take part in minipublics. The finding is relevant given that it is a well-known empirical fact that there is a strong statistical underrepresentation of women and ethnic minorities in the institutions of representative democracies. Yet this issue has been only scarcely explored in the literature. Hence, the question Prof. Stojanović asks is as follows: What explains a relatively high interest of women and immigrant-origin citizens in participating in deliberative minipublics in the Swiss context?

## Biography of the speaker



**Nenad Stojanović** Associate professor of political science, University of Geneva and Deputy director of the Department of General Democracy Research at the Centre for Democracy Studies Aarau, University of Zurich.

Nenad's main area of research is democracy, particularly participatory democracy and democratic institutions in multicultural and multilingual societies. He is the author of the books *Dialogue sur les quotas: Penser la représentation dans une démocratie multiculturelle* (Presses de Sciences Po, 2013) and *Multilingual Democracy: Switzerland and Beyond* (ECPR Press, 2021). He is active in organising

and/or providing scientific support for citizens' assemblies drawn by lot, particularly in the Swiss context (see [www.demoscan.ch](http://www.demoscan.ch)). In the context of a partnership between the universities of Geneva and Zurich he has founded the Swiss Research Centre on Democratic Innovations and is the Co-editor-in-chief of the *Swiss Political Science Review*. CV and publications: [www.nenadstojanovic.ch](http://www.nenadstojanovic.ch)

This lecture is part of the Gender Lecture Series organized by Prof. Elisa Fornalé as part of the HEurope HRJust (*States' practice of human rights justification: a study in civil society engagement and human rights through the lens of gender and intersectionality*) and the SNF funded project GEM (*Gender Equality in the Mirror*) housed at the WTI, University of Bern.

All previous lectures are available at: <https://hrjust-intersect-observatory.eu/gender-intersectionality/#webinar-series>

Participation is open to the public and free of charge. The event will be held at the Anna Nussbaum Auditorium of the World Trade Institute, at Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern. It will be possible to attend it remotely via Zoom. To register enter this [LINK](#)

For further information please email Dr. Nicolò Alessi ([nicolo.alessi2@unibe.ch](mailto:nicolo.alessi2@unibe.ch))