

Social movements and radical democracy – how do we exchange experiences and practices of participatory democracy? International gathering 2016?

Workshop by Malin Widehammar, Gothenburg

Abstract

In different places over the world practices of participatory democracy are being developed. Social movements and organisations are emerging and pushing for democratisation along with social and environmental changes. More and more experiences and strategies of mobilising for deepening democracy in the 19th century are cristalizing.

Citizen agendas and manifestos are being developed in different places such as in Tunisia, Uganda, Montreal (Canada), UK and Gothenburg (Sweden). Many not knowing of each other. In Spain´s last municipal election we saw several new political parties that gained mandates on programs with radical democratic changes as aims. Rojava in Kurdistan has called-out themselves as democratic self-managed and confederated area. They are practising and developing a democratic self-governing system in the midst of a harsh war situation. Participatory budgeting, as a tool of participating in prioritizing resources, is being spread to more places.

This workshop aims to explore the question of "How can we learn, inspire and strengthen each other in our struggles?". One idea that will be presented and elaborated upon together is an international meeting gathering initiatives and organisations working with democratisation and self-management. Together we will fill in the list of inspiring examples and ideas on themes, questions and other nice contents for a succesful forum.

The session will start with a short presentation of some initiatives such as the work on Citizen Manifestos in Tunisia and Uganda and the organisations Doustourna (Our constitution) and Citizen Watch it. Most of the session will be allocated for discussion and workshop.

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