



SWEDISH  
COLLEGIUM  
*for ADVANCED STUDY*

## **PLENARY SESSION # 7**

**Saturday, 18 February. 13:00 – 14:30. Room: IHC – Stein Auditorium**

**Session:** The Future of Democracy

**Chair:** Yogendra Yadav, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi

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Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Center for Policy Research, New Delhi

*How to Assess a Democracy: A Proposal. Empirical Evidence from Europe and Latin America*

Leonardo Morlino, Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS Guido Carli), Rome, and  
International Political Science Association (IPSA)

*TBA*

TK Oomen, Schumacher Centre for Development, New Delhi

## ABSTRACTS

TBA

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Center for Policy Research, New Delhi

Abstract TBA

*How to Assess a Democracy: A Proposal. Empirical Evidence from Europe and Latin America*

Leonardo Morlino, Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS Guido Carli), Rome, and  
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Since Plato's *Republic* and Aristotle's *Politics*, one of the most recurrent questions in political research has been: 'what is the best form of government'. More recently, this question has been reconsidered and re-worded within empirical research as: 'what is a good democracy' or, better, 'what is democratic quality'? But the consequent, even more important question is: how to assess a democracy and what is the best analytic tool for exploring and detecting democratic deepening and qualities in various countries? The alternatives developed in the literature are critically discussed and an original solution is fully spelled out. Building a data set where more than 80 cases with about thirty variables are included is the next necessary step. Third, a few examples are provided from European and Latin American cases to show more effectively how to measure and assess a democracy and if and how there can be consequent policy recommendation. Finally, the theoretical power of the analytic tool is better displayed by adding a few theoretical findings that the data suggest on the role of responsiveness within a democracy, the connection among the procedural qualities and the content ones, and the connections between freedom and equality with consequent considerations. In the concluding remarks, to draw the lines of research a few general and very relevant theoretical propositions will be presented.

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TK Oomen, Schumacher Centre for Development, New Delhi

Abstract TBA