

Global Friday Presents



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Webinar**

Gender and Deliberative Democracy

March 10, 2023

Scholars have long identified deliberation as crucial for healthy democracies. Deliberative democracy, "or decision making by discussion among free and equal citizens" (Elster 1998, 1) has been gaining popularity among both scholars and practitioners interested in improving and increasing citizen engagement. Despite the promises of deliberative democracy to eliminate "the discriminatory effects of class, race, and gender inequalities" (Gutmann and Thompson 2004, 48, 50), when it comes to gendered behavior, deliberative democratic scholars often pay only passing attention. By incorporating the literature on deliberative democracy with that on gender and political behavior, I identify a number of contradictions and antithetical perspectives on whether we can expect a gender gap in willingness and capacity for deliberation. Using surveys and experiments in deliberative democracy, I establish what this gender gap looks like and what we can do to eliminate its effects within deliberation. I conclude by thinking through what these findings might mean for democracy in Canada.

When: Friday, March 10 from 12pm to 1:30pm

Where: Online through Zoom only

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