

Mini-symposium on Constitutional Pluralism and Demoi-cracy in the EU

Mini-symposium at the VU Interdisciplinary Centre for European Studies (VICES)

Amsterdam, Friday 30 November.

On 30 November, VICES (the VU Interdisciplinary Centre for European Studies) organizes an academic symposium on Constitutional Pluralism and Demoi-cracy in the EU. The many European crises and the rise of Eurosceptic parties have made it ever more apparent that European integration is unlikely to issue in a single European people any time soon. Instead, it appears more appropriate to recognize that, even if the European Union has become an ever more integrated political system, it relies on a plurality of peoples. In legal thinking, this insight has given rise to the development of the idea of *legal pluralism*. Political theorists soon followed suit by developing the notion of *demoi-cracy*. Coming from different disciplinary backgrounds, these two conceptual lenses seek to accommodate the diversity among the constituent peoples of Europe. They also face similar challenges in specifying what it is that can hold such a plurality of peoples together and the form and substance of the commonality required for that

This symposium aims to open a conversation between the two perspectives – legal pluralism and demoi-cracy – to determine whether they are inherently compatible or whether there are fundamental differences between them. We do so by having two roundtables, one departing from the perspective of demoi-cracy and one from the perspective of legal pluralism. To introduce each roundtable we have invited two prominent scholars who have made important contributions to either approach: [Francis Cheneval](#) (University of Zürich) for the demoi-cracy perspective and [Ana Bobić](#) (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin) for the perspective of legal pluralism. Each roundtable opens with a ‘key note’ introduction in which our guests will reflect upon the state of the art in the field and its potential compatibility with the other approach. This is then followed by two or three responses from local scholars and a broader debate.

The symposium is deliberately staged as an exchange of ideas. There will be no new papers, but a dropbox will be made available with a couple of key readings that registered participants can consult beforehand. The symposium is organized under auspices of VICES, the VU Interdisciplinary Centre for European Studies, which is essentially the VU spin-off from what was previously ACCESS Europe.

The schedule for the afternoon is as follows:

12h30-13h30	Lunch and welcome
13h30-15h30	1 st roundtable ‘Demoi-cracy and legal pluralism in the EU’ Introduction: Francis Cheneval + discussants: Gareth Davies, Jan Pieter Beetz
16h00-18h00:	2 nd roundtable ‘Legal pluralism and demoi-cracy in the EU’ Introduction: Ana Bobić + discussants: Ben Crum, TBC
	Drinks and dinner for speakers

Location: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, OZW Building (De Boelaan 1109, Amsterdam), Room 6A-01

Please register with Ben Crum: ben.crum@vu.nl