NOT 'ALL THE SAME.'
Boosting the political participation of under-represented groups among electors in Britain

'Pas tous pareils'
Comment augmenter la participation aux élections des groupes sous-représentés en Grande-Bretagne

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2019
VENDREDI 8 NOVEMBRE 2019

Salle Athéna / Maison de la Recherche
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3
4 rue des Irlandais – 75005 Paris, France

Organisers / Organisation
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09:30 — 10:00 / Welcome tea/coffee

CHAIR: PAULINE SCHNAPPER

(1) 10:00 — 10:30

The State of Electoral Participation: Data, Notions and Concepts
Sarah PICKARD — Senior lecturer & researcher (MCF), Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, EA 4399 CREC/CREW, Paris.

(2) 10:30 — 11:00

ID Registration Schemes, Individual Electoral Registration, ‘Motor Voter’ Initiatives
Jessica GARLAND — Director of Policy and Research, Electoral Reform Society (ERS), London.

TEA/COFFEE BREAK

CHAIR: ROMAIN GARBAYE

(3) 11:30 — 12:00

Operation Black Vote: Boosting Black and Minority Ethnic Participation and Representation in the British Political System
Sharon BAPTISTE — Senior lecturer & researcher (MCF), Université Paris 13, EA 7338 PLEIADE, Villetaneuse.

(4) 12:00 — 12:30

Boosting Voting Among Minority Religious Groups
Rakib EHSAN — Research Fellow, Henry Jackson Society, London.

(5) 12:30 — 13:00

Too Poor to Vote? Closing the Turnout Income Gap
Emmanuelle AVRIL — Professor, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, EA 4399 CREC/CREW, Paris.

LUNCH

CHAIR: SARAH PICKARD

(6) 14:30 — 15:00

How to Capture the Youth Vote? A Lesson for Political Parties
Matt HENN — Professor, School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham.
James SLOAM — Reader in Politics, Royal Holloway University, London.

TEA/COFFEE BREAK

CHAIRS: EMMANUELLE AVRIL & SARAH PICKARD

(7) 15:30 — 17:00 / ROUNDTABLE – with all speakers and

‘Levers to Boost Women’s Electoral Participation’
Jessica GARLAND — Director of Policy and Research, Electoral Reform Society (ERS), London.

The ‘Brexit’ Expat Vote
Matthew LEGGETT — Senior lecturer & researcher (MCF), Université de Bourgogne Franche Comté, EA 4182 Centre Interlangues, Dijon.

Extending Voting Rights to Prisoners in Scotland
Edwige CAMP — Professor, Université de Valenciennes, EA 4343 CALHISTE, Valenciennes.
This study day will explore the political participation of under-represented groups as electors within traditional political institutions in Britain. The focus will be on barriers to participation and especially the mechanisms employed by different actors to increase the participation and agency of those groups of people who tend to have lower electoral turnout rates.

Numerous demographic categories, identity groups and communities are said to be under-represented in British electoral politics as voters with lower electoral participation rates. These include: young people, women, people from ethnic minorities and religious minorities, working class people, people from disadvantaged backgrounds, state-school educated people, LGBTQ people, single parents and disabled people.

The year 2019 marks just over a century since women aged 30 and over (owning property) were enfranchised for general elections, prior to all women obtaining the right to vote with universal suffrage in 1928. It is also the 50th anniversary of when the minimum voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 for general elections. Today, UK parliamentary debates are gaining momentum around votes at 16 that already exists in Scotland and soon Wales. In this way, over the years, various laws have been enacted that have opened out voting to a greater proportion of the population and various networks, pressure groups, advocacy groups and social movements have sought to increase franchise and boost the political participation of under-represented groups.

Why have the political participation rates of electors evolved? What has been done to achieve change? Who is involved in bringing about higher turnout rates among under-represented groups? How could participation be improved? Which individuals, networks, lobbies, social movements and political bodies are acting to improve participation? What has been done and by whom to encourage under-represented groups to vote and what else could or should be done? What are the levers to boost electoral participation? These are just some of the questions this study day aims to answer.

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