



Invitation to  
Democracy Innovation Summit | Copenhagen 2023  
**New frontiers in research  
on Citizens' Assemblies**



### TIME AND VENUE

- Tuesday, 3 October 2023, 12:30-17:00
- **Multisalen**, University of Copenhagen, Søndre Campus, Karen Blixens Vej 1, 2300 Copenhagen

The summit focuses on the role and future direction of democratic innovations in the 21st century, with a particular focus on green transition. You will hear about ground-breaking research on Citizens' Assemblies and how to create a public conversation about the green transition with better politics and decisionmaking.

At the summit you will get an insight on Danish researchers' latest discoveries on how the use of Citizens' Assemblies has changed (and will change) the democratic landscape in Denmark and abroad; hear international keynote speakers on the promises and perils of Citizens' Assemblies; and be a part of a session involving international and Danish practitioners in a discussion about the future of how to innovate democracy in Denmark and abroad and the role on Citizens' Assemblies.

"New Frontiers in Research on Citizens' Assemblies" are presented by the University of Copenhagen-based research group [Democratic Innovations in a Green Transition](#) (DIGT) in collaboration with We Do Democracy, the Danish Board of Technology and the international network Democracy R&D.

Democracy R&D is a global network of leading democracy experts, practitioners, and professionals with extensive experience in deliberative democracy, democratic innovation, and citizen engagement. This year's Annual Conference is to take place in Copenhagen on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

### Registration

"New frontiers in research on Citizens' Assemblies" is free. Registration is required and seats are limited. Register on the [event registration webpage](#) of the University of Copenhagen. For more information about the network follow the Annual Conference of Democracy R&D on this [page](#). Sign-up on the CitizenLab platform to get access to keynotes, workshop materials and much more post the conference.

# The programme

12.30pm: **Arrival and light lunch**

1.00pm: **Opening speech**

Welcome by Professor Lars Tønder, Deputy Head of Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, who will be moderating the summit

1.10pm: **Insights and research on deliberative democracy and green transition in Denmark**

Democratic Innovations in a Green Transition (DIGT) will present the latest research on Citizens' Assemblies.

Particular emphasis will be given to issues such as: How participation in climate Citizens' Assemblies affects views on green transition, how to engage politicians and public officials in the design and delivery of recommendations, and how Citizens' Assemblies compare with other types of civil society engagement.

#### The DIGT's members are:

- **Lars Tønder**, Deputy Head of Department and Professor with special responsibilities, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen
- **Ingrid Helene Brandt Jensen**, Ph.D. student, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen
- **Mads Ejsing**, Postdoc, Center for Applied Ecological Thinking and Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen
- **Amnon Lev**, Director and Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen
- **Irina Papazu**, Head of Center and Associate Professor, IT University of Copenhagen
- **Frederik Langkjær**, Independent Consultant, formerly with Danish Board of Technology

2.15pm: **Short coffee break**

2.30pm: **International outlook and inspiration:**

The promises and perils of Citizens' Assemblies in the 21st century

International guest speakers will share their takes on the different challenges and promises that the deliberative wave and the citizens' of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are facing.

#### Keynotes:



**Jane Suiter**, Professor in the School of Communications at Dublin City University and director of the Institute for Future Media, Democracy and Society. Her research focus is on the information environment in the public sphere and in particular on scaling up deliberation and tackling disinformation. She has been involved in various research and oversight capacities on the Irish Citizens' Assembly (2012-2022) and was a founder member of We the Citizens (2011), Ireland's first deliberative experiment.



**Jon Alexander**, a thinker and author of *CITIZENS: Why the Key to Fixing Everything is All of Us*, and co-founder of the New Citizen-ship Project, a book and company that work to shift the dominant story of the individual in society from Consumer to Citizen. Among other plaudits, *CITIZENS* was recently listed by McKinsey as one of its Top 5 Recommended Books in its Summer Reading Guide 2022, described as "an underground hit" in the *Financial Times*, and selected by the World Economic Forum for its CEO Book Club.



**Nicole Curato**, Professor of Political Sociology at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra. Her work examines how democratic innovations unfold in the aftermath of tragedies, including disasters, armed conflict, and urban crime. She is the author of *Democracy in a Time of Misery: From Spectacular Tragedy to Deliberative Action* (2019, Oxford University Press) and the editor of the *Journal of Deliberative Democracy*

3.45pm: **Short break**

4.00pm: **Roundtable on the future of Citizens' Assemblies in Denmark and abroad, particularly their role in driving the green transition**

With the Danish Climate Citizens' Assembly, Copenhagen is stepping into an international league of other impactful climate Citizens' Assemblies.

This roundtable moderated by **Anders Blok**, Associate Professor at Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen offers a common ground for practitioners to exchange their insights and experiences.

**Keynote:**



**Doreen Grove**, Head of the Scottish Government's Open Governance Partnership. Doreen leads Scottish Government's involvement in the [Open Government Partnership](#) at both a National and International level. In Scotland, Open Government supports the reform and development of trustworthy public services, the renewal of democracy, promotes openness, transparency and the use of innovative participative processes.

The roundtable practitioners are:

- **Karsten Biering Nielsen**, Director of the Technical and Environmental Administration of Copenhagen Municipality
- **Astrid Aller**, member of Copenhagen City Council from the Green Left Party
- **Ariel Storm**, leader for engagement and membership-universe in the Danish Climate Movement
- **Bjørn Bedsted**, International Director at the Danish Board of Technology
- **Zakia Elvang**, Managing Partner and Democracy Advisor at We Do Democracy

5.00pm: **Concluding remarks by Professor Lars Tønder & glass of wine and networking**