



Citizenship in Hard Times

Monday, January 13, 2020 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM

ERC Conference Room 115



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What do citizens do in times of democratic crisis? When democracy is under threat, do everyday citizens activate and mobilize, or do they hunker down, demobilize, and express greater support for homogeneity (like speaking English)? Scholars, pundits and policy experts have largely focused on elite behavior and institutional guardrails, but the citizenry is a foundation to any story about democracy under threat. This book is the first to examine civic obligation in unsettled democratic times from the perspective of citizens themselves. It employs a three-country study of the US, UK, and Germany, to examine how democratic citizens define obligation and for whom, comparing native-born and naturalized citizens. Findings highlight the importance of how democratic problems are framed, and puts forward a number of policy prescriptions for overhauling civic education.

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