

## The Friday Forum

On Teams

25 March 2022  
3.30pm – 5pm

### Have we seen ‘peak democracy’?

Recent years appear to have witnessed an increase in the rise of authoritarian and anti-democratic tendencies across the globe. Numerous regimes pay only lip-service to liberal democratic principles and institutions, such as the rule of law and the inviolability of free and fair elections. National chauvinism and ethno-religious militancy seem ever more emboldened, sometimes leading to violence and war. In numerous countries, basic political and civil liberties, such as the freedom of the press, are threatened. Even in well-established liberal democracies, the rise of populist or extremist movements and political figures seems to undermine the functioning of democratic institutions. The time (not so long back) when it was blithely assumed the whole world would slowly but surely move towards liberal democracy seems a distant memory.

This Friday Forum brings together researchers in politics and other disciplines to address the question: What is the state of the democratic ideal today?

**Chair: Professor Paul Kenny, IHSS, ACU**

#### **Speakers:**

**Professor John Dyrzek**, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra

**Dr Adele Webb**, School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology

**Professor Vedi Hadiz**, Asia Institute, University of Melbourne

**Professor Carolyn Hendriks**, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University



W.F. Herrick's 1990 "Democracy" sculpture, Burlington, Vermont, USA. Source: [Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/rr/education/teachlib/teachlib.html).