WHY DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY MATTERS

A SYDNEY IDEAS ARTS MATTERS FORUM
Co-presented with the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney and newdemocracy and IAP2

Deliberative democracy is an approach to public policy-making and problem-solving that encourages citizens to actively participate in a moderated discussion and debate that will have direct impact on policy decisions of government. In the Australian context, the recently mooted Citizens Assembly on climate change is an example. But what is the ‘deliberative’ process and why does our democracy need it now?

As the world contemplates its massive and seemingly insurmountable environmental and social problems, when fact has become separated from feeling, citizens are becoming more removed from possible solutions. Deliberative democracy could be the key to solving difficult problems collectively. Come along and join pre-eminent local and international scholars and practitioners as they imagine a way out of the current mess. This is a unique opportunity to hear this international community of thought-leaders discuss an issue that affects us all.

Participating Chairs:
Lyn Carson, Professorial Fellow, Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney and Adjunct Professor, United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney
John Gastil, Professor, Political Communications, University of Washington, USA

Panellists:
Sandy Heierbacher, Director, National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation, USA
Lars Kluver, Director, Danish Board of Technology, Denmark
Matt Leighninger, Executive Director, Deliberative Democracy Consortium, USA
Alannah MacTiernan, former Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, WA

Date: Thursday 3 February 2011
Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm
Venue: Seymour Centre, University of Sydney
Cost: $20/$15 Concession
Free for University of Sydney staff and students (ID required)
Bookings: 02 9351 7940 or online sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas