

NOTAT

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Saksbehandler:	Ida Hjelmesæth

Øvrige orienteringssaker

- A. Christoph Ossege fra Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences har påbegynt sitt opphold som gjesteforsker ved ARENA i tre måneder fra januar 2013. Oppholdet i Norge er finansiert av et E.ON Ruhrgas-stipend.
- B. ARENA var også i år medarrangør av Demokratikonferansen «The 4th International Conference on Democracy as Idea and Practice», som ble avholdt 10-11. januar 2013.
- C. Arrangementslisten for vårsemesteret 2013 er ferdigstilt. Foruten tirsdagsseminarene, vil vårens største arrangementer være konferansen «Europe in crises, Europe as the crises, Europe beyond the crises: Implications for the EU and Norway» under NORCONE-prosjektet, som vil bli avholdt 14.-15. mars 2013, samt EPISTO-prosjektets kick-off konferanse som vil bli avholdt 4.-5. april 2013. For fullstendig liste og detaljer, se følgende nettside:
<http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/research/news-and-events/events/?view=allupcoming>
- D. ARENAs årsrapport for 2012 er nå tilgjengelig elektronisk og vil deles ut i papirversjon på styremøtet:
<http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/about/strategy/plans-and-reports/annual-report-2012.pdf>
- E. Noen utvalgte publikasjoner fra ARENAs forskere de siste månedene:
Johan P. Olsen (2013) “The Institutional Basis of Democratic Accountability”, *West European Politics*:
<http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/research/publications/publications-2013/olsen-wep-ifirst-2013.html>
Sammendrag: This article offers an institutional approach to accountability in representative democracies. Theorising accountability comprises both settled polities with well-entrenched institutions and unsettled polities with weak or contested institutions, and it is argued that agency theory and formal principal–agent models giving priority to



compliance and control usually make assumptions that are unlikely to apply to the latter type of polity. An institutional approach challenges principal–agent assumptions regarding what accountability means and implies, what is involved in demanding, rendering, assessing and responding to accounts and assigning accountability, and how accountability institutions work and change. Accountability is related to fundamental issues in democratic politics and the paper treats distributions of information, normative standards of assessment, authority and power relations as endogenous to democratic politics. The article also holds that institutions affect actors' identities and roles through socialisation, internalisation and habitualisation, as well as through external incentives. An aspiration is to take a modest step towards understanding areas of application for competing approaches to democratic accountability.

Anders Molander, Harald Grimen og **Erik Oddvar Eriksen** (2012) "Professional Discretion and Accountability in the Welfare State", *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 29(3): 214-30: <http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/research/publications/publications-2012/eoe-japp-29-3.html>

Sammendrag: The discretionary powers of welfare state professionals are in tension with the requirements of the democratic *Rechtsstaat*. Extensive use of discretion can threaten the principles of the rule of law and relinquish democratic control over the implementation of laws and policies. These two tensions are in principle ineradicable. But does this also mean that they are impossible to come to grips with? Are there measures that may ease these tensions? We introduce an understanding of discretion that adds an epistemic dimension (discretion as a mode of reasoning) to the common structural understanding of discretion (an area of judgment and decision). Accordingly we distinguish between structural and epistemic measures of accountability. The aim of the former is to constrain discretionary spaces or the behaviour within them while the aim of the latter is to improve the quality of discretionary reasoning.

The focus in this article is on epistemic measures that are internally related to the main characteristic of accountability, namely justified use of discretionary power.

Flere utvalgte publikasjoner:

Et spesialnummer av *Journal of European Public Policy* 20(3), 2013: "The representative turn in EU studies", inkluderte flere bidrag fra ARENA-forskere:

Christopher Lord og Johannes Pollak: "Unequal but democratic? Equality according to Karlsruhe" s. 190-205;

Christopher Lord: "No representation without justification? Appraising standards of justification in European Parliament debates", s. 243-59;

Asimina Michailidou og Hans-Jörg Trenz: "Mediatized representative politics in the European Union: towards audience democracy?", s. 260-77;

Jarle Trondal og B. Guy Peters: "The rise of European administrative space: lessons learned", s. 295-307:

<http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/research/publications/publications-2013/jepp-20-2-representative-turn.html>

Anne Elisabeth Stie var tilknyttet ARENA da hun arbeidet med sin nylig publiserte bok: *Democratic Decision-making in the EU. Technocracy in disguise?*, Routledge, 2012:
<http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/research/publications/publications-2012/stie-democratic-decision-making.html>

Hans-Jörg Trenz har sammen med Paul Statham publisert *The Politicization of Europe: Contesting the Constitution in the mass media*, Routledge, 2012:
<http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/research/publications/publications-2012/the-politicization-of-europe.html>

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