

Public Deliberation, Democratic Politics, and the Feeling of Impartiality¹

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My paper focuses on affective dimensions of legitimate and impartial public deliberation in the democratic context. The institutional context of public deliberation as I treat it in the paper is somewhat dispersed in that it ranges from the formal decision-making procedures of lawmaking to the more informal processes through which average citizens deliberate with others about the justice of the laws and public policies that govern them. The paper articulates some general criteria for the proper incorporation of affect in these different settings. It treats the sentiments that figure in democratic deliberation as arising through intersubjective processes of communication (I draw on David Hume's theory of sympathy to illustrate this) and I'll plan to incorporate some discussion of this into the paper. I also plan to say something briefly about how new research on the emotions (especially the neuroscience/neuropsychology material) is being deployed within political science in general right now.

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