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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

Democracy at Crossroads: The European and Indian Experience

September 26 & 27, 2023

Venue:

**Room 344, SIS II Building, JNU,
New Delhi (Hybrid Mode)**

Organised by

Jean Monnet Chair

**Democracy, Diversity and European Identity
in the European Union**

**Centre for European Studies
School of International Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi**



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Working Session V

Perspectives on Democracy

Speaker I

Deliberative Democracy as a Remedy for the Crisis of Democracy: The European and the Indian Experience

Dr. Samuel Nannoni

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Abstract

Democracy appears in crisis all around the world. The evidence is mostly provided by the high abstention rate at national and local elections and, on the other hand, by the tendency toward an illiberal regression growing both in the European Union, in countries such as Poland and Hungary, and in many countries in the rest of the world, like Russia, Turkey and India. While the former statement seems to suggest that in the XXI century, democracy cannot be longer merely reduced to the practice of elections, but it needs to be reinforced with more structured forms of participation, the latter proves that elections are not enough for defining a democracy. As a matter of fact, those countries affected by illiberal paths are called “elective autocracy”.

The attempt is therefore to investigate how democracies are trying to rescue themselves from these crises concerning lack of trust and loss of rights, through a redefinition of their institutions and rules inspired by an organized injection of demos into Kratos, thus of common citizens into the political process. This is just what happened in the European Union with the Conference on the Future of Europe and what is happening in many European countries with the so-called “deliberative citizens’ assemblies or

conventions”. As well as in India, with some villages experimenting with deliberative processes.

As well as India became the historical terrain of a worldwide spread of democratic and federal ideas after WW II, today India could turn into the first non-western country with structured deliberative democracy processes.



Brief Bio

Mr. Samuele Nannoni is currently the Vice president of the Italian “Prossima Democrazia” Association, dealing with deliberative participation’s processes with random selected groups of citizens. He graduated from the University of Bologna in 2017 in International and Diplomatic Sciences. He has also been a Researcher at the Lothian Foundation since 2022. His main fields of research are federalism and federal development of European common institutions, and historic and present relations between Europe and Russia.