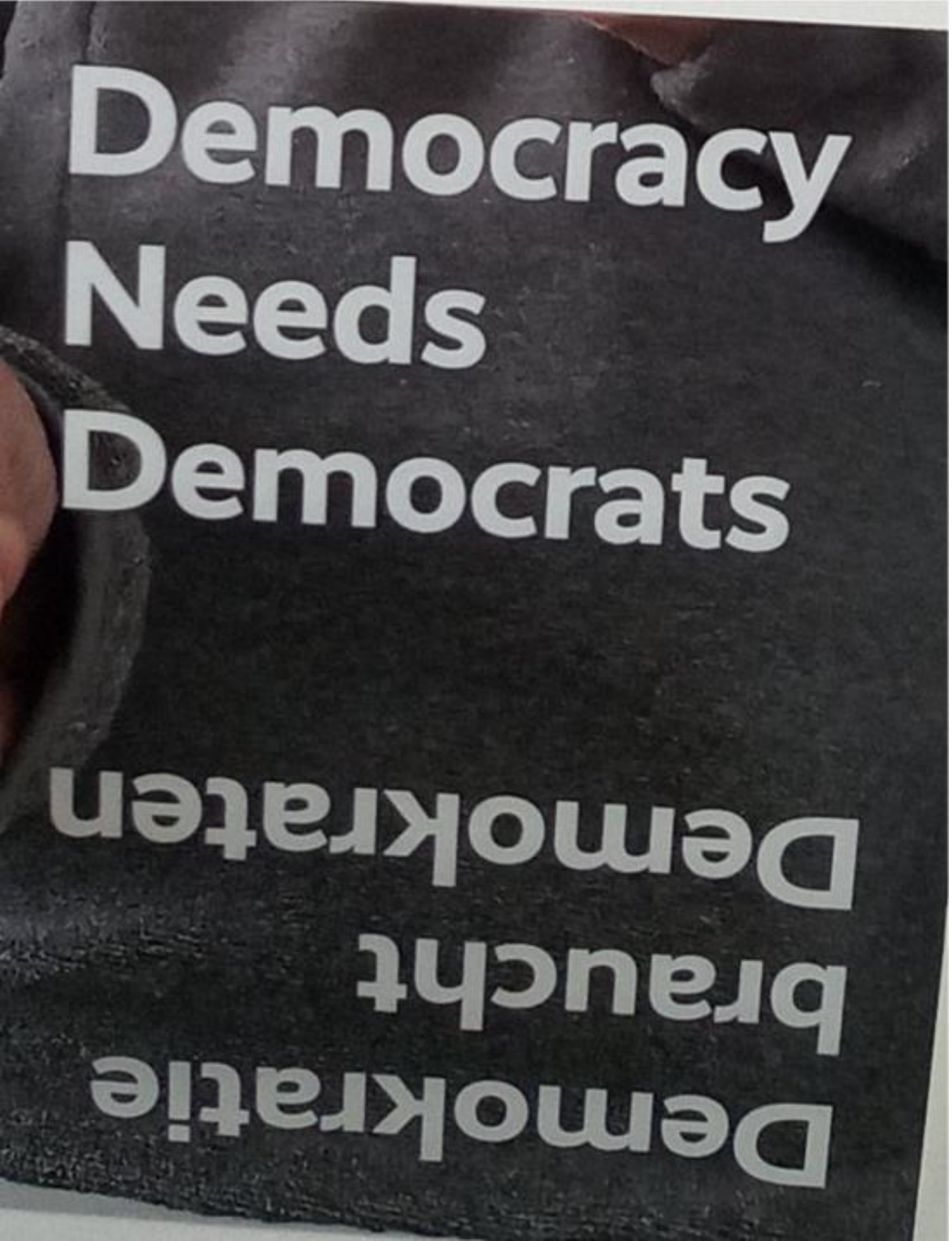

Unit B

ENTERING THE PROCESS

Angeliki Paraskevopoulou
Andrea Conti
Lia Marchi
Arati Uttur

Our programme for today

18 00 **Re-cap of Phase A, Clarification on the working groups**

18 10 **How do we enter the process?**

Video presentation

18 30 **We want to hear you out**

What is activism to you?
What does it mean to be “active”?
How / where are you “active”?

18 50 **The connection between activism and democracy**

19 15 **Assignments for the next sessions**

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Re-cap of Phase A

Which main concepts have you taken home so far?

https://www.menti.com/al75xekfdisv

PART 1

Entering the Process

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How do we enter the process?

Overnight Pop-up Bike lanes.
DO THE RIGHT LINE (guerrilla bike)
Milan, Italy
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQnw6Os3kRY

Marjory Allen, Lady Allen of Hurtwood, adventure playgrounds
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pqMXplAI9Y

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What comes to your mind after seeing these videos?

What does it take to initiate a change process?

We want to hear you out

What is activism to you?

We want to hear you out

What does it mean to you to be "active"?

We want to hear you out

How and where are you "active"?

We want to hear you out

Have you been an activist at any point? Share your experience

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Activism

: a doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action especially in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue
political activism
environmental activism

The first known use of activism was in 1915
borrowed from German Aktivismus, from aktiv ACTIVE entry 1 + -ismus -ISM

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

: is the process of campaigning in public or working for an organization in order to bring about political or social change.
He believed in political activism to achieve justice

(Collins English Dictionary)

The birth of Democracy

The term does not appear between 440-430 B.C. It is used in texts in 460 B.C.

Composite word:
Δήμος (Demos): all people with civil rights and
Κράτος (cratos): power, strength, dominion

“people have power”

The birth of Democracy

After the abolishment of monarchy in Ancient Greece, Cylon a noble and victor of the Olympic Games unsuccessfully tried to take over rulership of Athens and while his followers who took shelter in the temple of Athena, were promised to live, they were slayed by the followers of Cylon's opponent, the wealthy noble Megaklis Alcmaeonid (approx. 632 B.C.). The slaying of the people sheltered by goddess Athena was considered a "stain" and "shame" to the city known as the Cylonian curse (Κυλώνειο άγος).

Excavations at Faliro Delta associated with the Cylonian curse found mass graves of handcuffed people.

https://www.mixanitouxronou.com.cy/epikerotita/apokalifthike-omadiki-tafi-80-desmoton-pou-itan-topothetimeni-o-enas-dipla-ston-allo-stis-anaskafes-sto-faliriko-delta-meriki-forousan-chiropedes-ke-sindeonte-me-to-kilonio-agos-pou-sigklonise-tin-ar/

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The birth of Democracy

The turmoil and series of killings amongst the Athenians that followed called for the establishment of laws by:

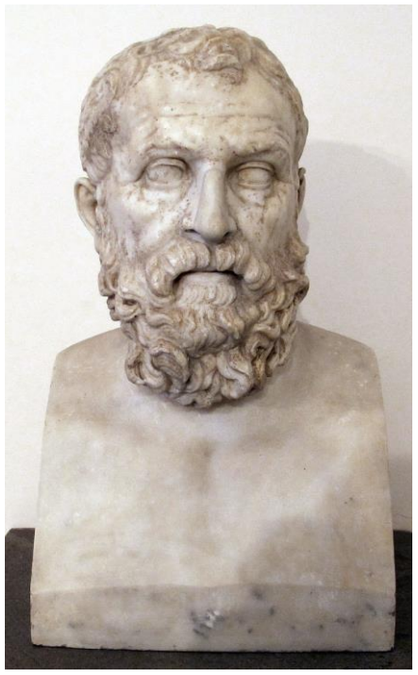
Drakon (624 B.C.)

Until then, oral laws were known to a special class (Athenian aristocrats) and were arbitrarily applied and interpreted. For the first time, all laws were written (initially on wooden tablets later, on stone), made known to all literate citizens (Draconian Constitution). The Laws were characterised as harsh.

The birth of Democracy

Solon, a poet and philosopher (594 B.C.)

He tried to develop Eunomia (Good Law) (Solonian constitution)



Key reforms were:
seisachtheia, composite word: σείω (seio): remove and άχθω (achtho): weight, meaning “remove weight”. Athenian slaves due to their debts were free and banned to mortgage their personal freedom to payoff debts.

timocratic system, introduced 4 new classes based on people’s income to hold political positions (previously based on birth)

Boule 400, council prepared cases for discussion in the assembly (ekklesia); the lower classes participated

The birth of Democracy

Eunomia (Good Law, Lawfulness) ≠ Dysnomia (Lawlessness)

These things my spirit bids me
teach the men of Athens:
that *Dysnomia*
brings countless evils for the city,
but Eunomia brings order
and makes everything proper,
by enfolding the unjust in fetters,
smoothing those things that are rough,
stopping greed,
sentencing hybris to obscurity
making the flowers of mischief to whither,
and straightening crooked judgments.
It calms the deeds of arrogance
and stops the bilious anger of harsh strife.
Under its control, all things are proper
and prudence reigns human affairs.

Solon

https://allpoetry.com/Eunomia

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Eunomia - The birth of Democracy

Horai (three daughters of Zeus and Themis, deities of orderly life) worshipped in Ancient Athens

Eunomia (Lawfulness), Diki (Justice) and Eirene (Peace)

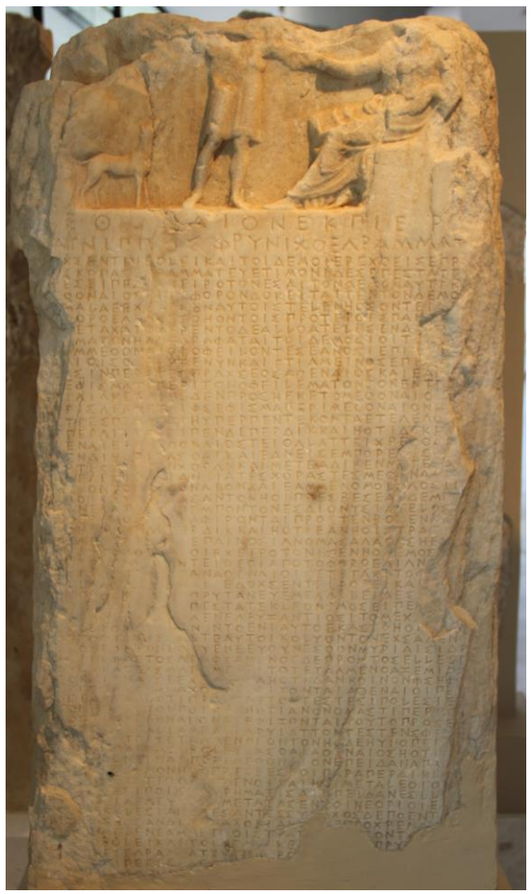
https://el.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/%CE%91%CF%81%CF%87%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%BF:Dionysos_Horai_Louvre_MR720.jpg

The birth of Democracy

Cleisthenes (508 B.C.) "the father of Athenian democracy“

Isonomia (equal law), “equal laws for all”

Weakened the power of the aristocracy further (4 Ionian tribes by blood)



Key reforms:

10 new phyles (tribes), divided Attica into three areas (demous), asty (centre), paralia (coastal), mesogeia (inland). Each demos was divided into 10 trityes. Each tribe was formed by one tritya from each demos. Citizen’s names would be accompanied by the name of the demos.

Boule 500, constituted of 50 representatives from each tribe selected within each demo according to their numbers

“Decreed by the Council and the People” («Έδοξεν τη βουλή και τω δήμω») documented on stone, were announced and erected in public areas so that they could be read

Ostracism, banishment from Athens by vote (6,000) who would threaten the stability of the state

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Methone

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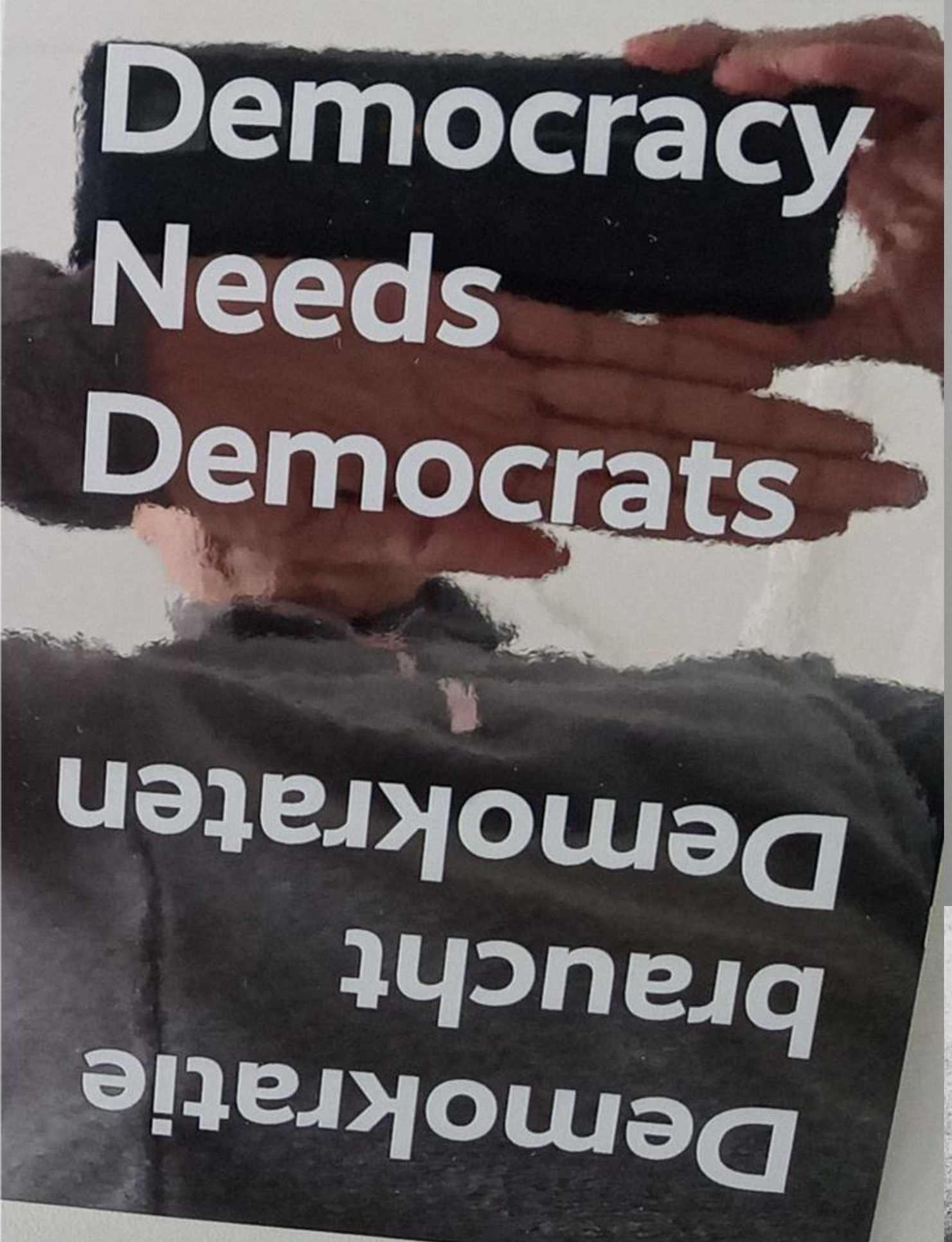


AUSSTELLUNG

Willkür im Namen des Deutschen Volkes

Zertrümmerung des Rechtsstaats im Nationalsozialismus: Die Weiße-Rose-Prozesse im Münchner Justizpalast

https://www.justiz.bayern.de/presse-und-medien/pressemitteilungen/archiv/2023/69.php

Justizpalast, Prielmayerstraße 7, München, 2. Etage
Geöffnet: montags–donnerstags von 9.00 Uhr–15.00 Uhr,
freitags von 09.00 Uhr–14.00 Uhr
Der Eintritt ist kostenlos.

Activism - Graffiti

Banksy

England-based street artist, political activist and film director whose real name and identity remain unconfirmed.

Season’s Greetings

“Some believe that his graffiti helps to provide a voice for those living in urban environments that could not otherwise express themselves, and that his work is also something which improves the aesthetic quality of urban surroundings. Others disagree, asserting that his work is simply vandalism.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_underground_scene

Activism - Graffiti

Banksy
England-based street artist, political activist and film director whose real name and identity remain unconfirmed.

"The vandalised paintings reflect life as it is now. We don't live in a world like Constable's Haywain anymore and, if you do, there is probably a travellers' camp on the other side of the hill. The real damage done to our environment is not done by graffiti writers and drunken teenagers, but by big business... exactly the people who put gold-framed pictures of landscapes on their walls and try to tell the rest of us how to behave."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banksy

https://youtu.be/G0v_OOYlgig

Show me the Monet,
https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2020/contemporary-art-evening-auction-2/banksy-show-me-the-monet

Activism - Graffiti

Ino

Greek street artist, name and identity remain unconfirmed.

"Ignorance is Bliss“, Cypriot Parliament

“The monochrome piece depicts Solon & Pericles, two of the most important representatives of ancient Greek democracy, with their eyes covered with bright blue paint. With this subtle yet effective intervention, the artist "blinded" the 2 fathers of democracy from seeing the ways their political system is being practiced in the world today. ” Sasha Bogojev (https://www.juxtapoz.com/news/street-art/ino-paints-politically-charged-mural-inside-cyprus-parliament-building/)

Activism for saving green spaces

https://chng.it/hJSFcPt9sx

change.org Eine Petition starten Meine Petitionen Durchsuchen Förder*in werden

Übersichtsseite Petitionsdetails Bearbeiten Kommentare

Für einen Stadtpark am Fluss auf dem Wörth-Areal in Nürtingen

296 haben unterschrieben. Nächstes Ziel: 500.

Bei 500 Unterschriften wird die Petition mit höherer Wahrscheinlichkeit in den **Empfehlungen** gelistet!

vor 10 Minuten hat **Anna Völlinger** unterschrieben

vor 22 Minuten hat **heike graefe** unterschrieben

Für einen Stadtpark auf dem Wörth-Areal am Neckar in Nürtingen

Ellen Fetzer hat diese Petition gestartet

Auf Facebook teilen

E-Mail an Freunde senden

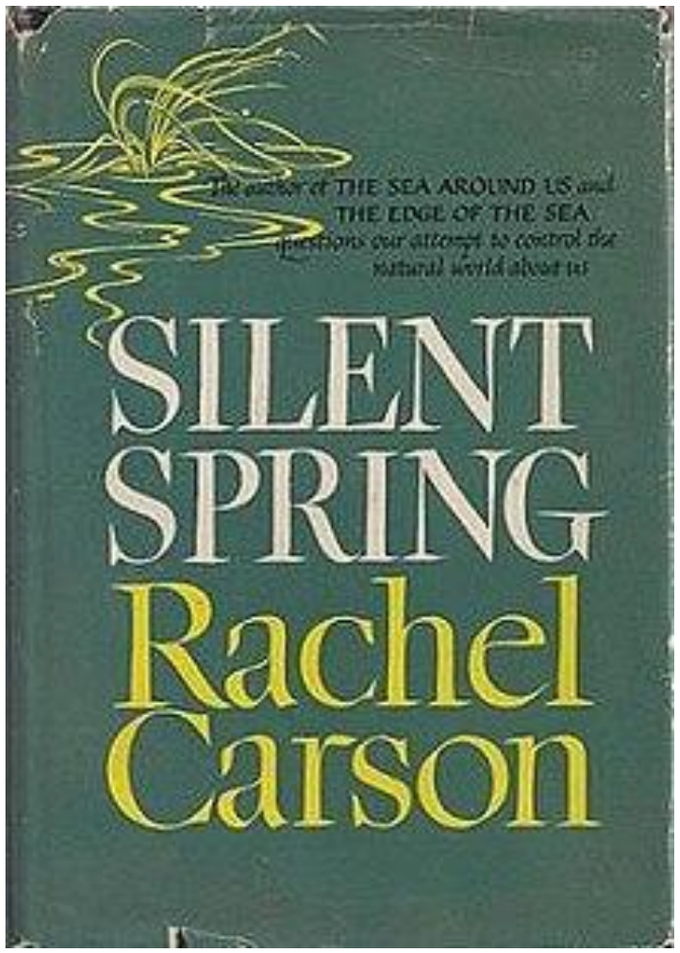
Nürtingen steht kurz davor, seine Jahrhundertchance auf einen zentralen

Activism - Advertisements

Green Box

3mx3m “box” put up by the restaurants that run in Munich central Railway station in a busy underground pedestrian corridor that serves as a connection for passengers to the various modes of public transport. Brings attention to the concept of growing food, composting and re-utilising vegetable waste to re-grow instead of throwing away.

Environmental Activism



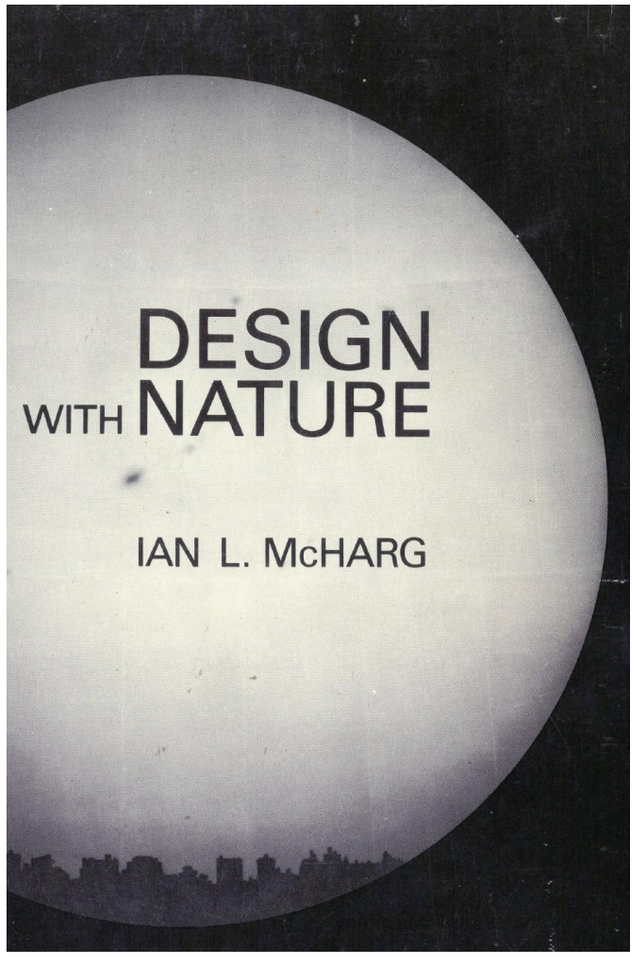
Silent Spring, Rachel Carson (marine biologist), 1962

Documented the harmful effect of pesticide use on the environment
Fierce opposition by chemical companies – rise of environmental concerns to the American public
Reversal of US pesticide policy
DDT ban for agricultural use
Strat environmental movement
Development of the US Environmental Protection Agency

Activism in Planning

Freeways, Lawrence Halprin (Landscape Architect), 1966

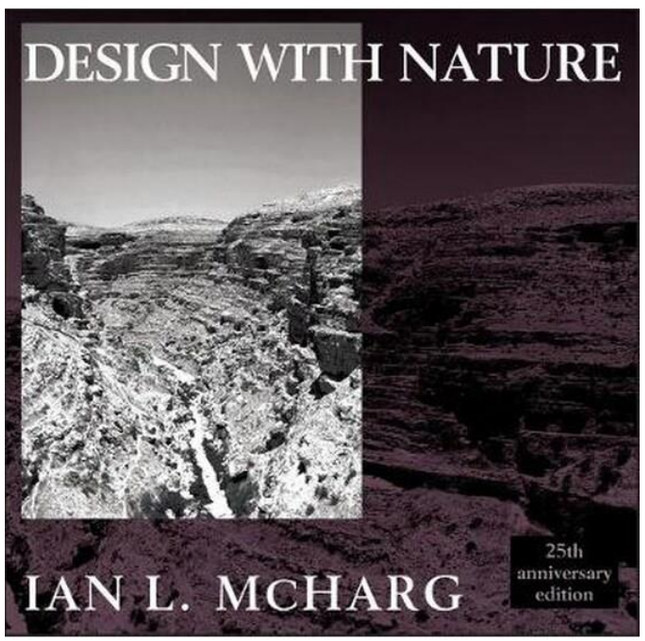
“…. Many more have been inept and have demeaned the cities which they were meant to serve. …….freeways must be designed by people with great sensitivity not only to structure, but also to the environment, to the effect of freeways on the form of the city, and to the choreography of motion”



Design Activism

Design with Nature, Ian McHarg (landscape architect), 1969

….provide a method into which environmental data could be incorporated into the planning process…..



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Activism and Policy

- In 1987 the International Commission on Environment and Development published the Brundtland report (UN, 1987) entitled “Our Common Future” in which sustainable development was defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

- In 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the United Nations International Conference on Environment and Development adopted Agenda 21, an action plan for achieving environmental, economic and social goals at the local level. Special emphasis was placed on the contribution of the local level (local actors) to achieving the goal of sustainable development, through the formulation of the principle “think global act local”.

Activism and Policy

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PART 2

10th of May, 2023

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ENTERING THE PROCESS: YOUR EXAMPLE FROM THE FIELD

(INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION)

PREPARATION:

1. **Find an inspiring example of ‘design activism’ from your own country.**

1. **Prepare a five-minute (not more) story to present your example during our Wednesday class, on May 10th, 2023.**

During your research please address the following questions:

- When/Where did your story take place?
- What was the socio-political context at that time?
- Who took action during the process?
- What political, ethical, or moral challenge relating to ‘landscape democracy’ did they address?
- What actions did they perform?
- Who or What did these actions give voice to?
- What stance did they express relating to that challenge?

PART 3

17th of May, 2023

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ENTERING THE PROCESS: A ROLE-PLAY DISCUSSION
1/3

(GROUP DISCUSSION)

PREPARATION:

1. **In your group, select one of the landscape democracy challenges contained in your manifestos.**

1. **Each member of the group choose a different activist designer** (below you find a suggested list of designers/planners practitioners). Please note that all designers and planners listed are all people who has been active in promoting democratic design processes in their work.

1. **Each member researches and studies the work/life/theories/beliefs of the activist designer they choose.** You decide which type of source to use for your preparation. You could use the readings provided in this course, but also scope for other sources on your own (for example using other type of media like video, podcasts on internet, etc.). In depicting the practitioner, think of his/her personal background and history, the ethical challenges they have faced, the type of processes they engaged in, and who they worked with.

ENTERING THE PROCESS: A ROLE-PLAY DISCUSSION 2/3

During the last session of this unit (on **May 17**), the role-play discussion will be organized in the form of "**virtual roundtables**."

In your roundtable, your group **will discuss potential ways** to address the landscape democracy challenge you selected.

Each group member will role-play the designer they chose trying to personify him/her in their thinking/beliefs/attitudes during their work. You should try as much as possible to **act out** and have some fun in this process.

To engage your discussion your group may follow a script you prepared in advance, or also improvise the discussion. In both cases, please make sure to consider the following questions:

- At the beginning of the play, please introduce and provide a short profile of 'your role play' (i.e. the designer you are playing).
- How would you (the designer you are playing) enter the process and address your landscape democracy challenge?
- What skills/tools would you bring at the table to facilitate the process?
- What values would you support during the process?
- Which side and political perspective do you support during the process?

SUGGESTED LIST OF LANDSCAPE DEMOCRACY ROLE-PLAYERS 3/3

Alessandra Orofino

Anne Spirn (Mill Creek Project)

Cecily Corti (Vinzi Rast mittendrin)

Christopher Alexander (The Oregon Experiment, Pattern Language)

Dominika Tihanyi (Budapest)

Giancarlo De Carlo (Team 10, Legitimizing architecture)

Henry Sanoff (Planning Games)

Hoichi Kurisu (healing gardens, Oregon State Penitentiary garden)

James Rojas (place-it)

Jan Gehl ('Life between buildings', how to study public life)

Jane Jacobs

Jeff Hou (Insurgent Urbanism, International district in Seattle)

Julian Petrin et al., Hamburg (nexthamburg, German only)

Karl Linn (UC Berkeley, Community Gardens)

Ken Reardon (University of Memphis, the East Saint Louis Project)

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir (Bangladesh)

Klaus Overmeyer (Urban Catalyst Studio)

Kofi Boone (Black Landscapes Matter)

Lawrence and Anna Halprin, (The RSVP cycle, Levi's Plaza and Headquarters)

Leonie Sandercock (University of British Columbia, Collingwood Neighbourhood House)

Mark Francis (Village homes)

Monika Arzberger http://www.koine.de (Germany)

Paula Horrigan (Cornell University; Rust to Green project)

Plansinn.at

Ralph Erskine (Byker Redevelopment)

Randy Hester (UC Berkeley, Manteo, Big Wild, The Spoonbill project)

Robert Jungk (Zukunftswerkstatt)

Samuel Mockbee (The Rural Studio)-Anisa Glumcevic

Santiago Cirugeda (Seville, Spain)

Walter Hood (UC Berkeley, Lafayette Park Oakland, CA)

Wangari Maathai (Kenyan Green Belt movement)

NOTE: you may also suggest a different name, based on your personal experience and knowledge.

?