

Responding to democratic dilemmas: Argumentation, Deliberation, and Democratic Innovation.

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Advanced democracies face a plethora of wicked problems of governance linked to increased polarisation of politics, the spread of misinformation, and decreased trust in democratic institutions. The research and policy response has been conditioned by disciplinary and sectoral perspectives. Computer scientists and philosophers of linguistics have tried to understand how arguments can be identified, their quality assessed, mapped, and improved. Democratic Innovations, inspired by theories of deliberative and participatory democracy have focused on institutional engineering to increase inclusion and capacity of citizen voices. This paper maps the different foci of responses to these problems and identifies missed opportunities for clever collective response. We show that conceptual confusion as well as differences in focus on argumentation, dialogue or discourse has led to underuse of deliberative insights in argument mapping, in turn reducing the impact of advances in argument identification in democratic innovation. The paper discusses implications for some of the leading tools and platforms currently in widespread use. We find that approaches in the social sciences have advanced strong normative criteria, as well as detailed policy implication, but lack a mid-range theory to explain how affordances of design affect communication in fora. Elsewhere certain approaches linking computer science and philosophy have offered strong conceptual theory to guide efficient product design but suffer from a lack of attention to normative questions of how social outcomes are achieved. Drawing on these insights we produce a novel organising perspective for to guide efficient discovery of solutions within this growing and pressing research agenda.