The shift from government to governance has become a starting point for many studies of contemporary policy making and democracy. *Practices of Freedom* takes a different approach, calling into question this dominant narrative and taking the variety, hybridity and dispersion of social and political practices as its focus of analysis. Bringing together leading scholars in democratic theory and critical policy studies, it draws upon new understandings of radical democracy, practice and interpretative analysis to emphasise the productive role of actors and political conflict in the formation and reproduction of contemporary forms of democratic governance. Integrating theoretical dialogues with detailed empirical studies, this book examines spaces for democratisation, institutional design, democratic criteria and learning, whilst mobilising the frameworks of agonistic and aversive democracy, informality and decentred legitimacy, in cases from youth engagement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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Practices of Freedom

Decentred Governance, Conflict and Democratic Participation

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It is often the case that the origins of academic volumes can be traced back to one timely conversation between colleagues or a single intervention from the floor at a workshop. This is not the case for this volume. This book has emerged over a number of years from multiple conversations with numerous colleagues at conferences, panels, workshops, doctoral seminars and reading groups. Many of these conversations took place at the annual Interpretative Policy Analysis conference, where thoughts were triggered, claims discussed and perspectives nurtured within a community of scholars themselves engaged in critical accounts of democratic governance. Academic scholarship is a collective endeavour and this book rightly bears testament to that.

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