



Deliberative Democracy Now

While millions feel politically marginalized, there is evidence that democracy is evolving into a conversation-based, public-centered practice called deliberative democracy. In this new form of democracy, public discussion, conscious reflection, and collective choice drive democratic governance and have the power to override democratic dysfunction. Illustrating this emerging possibility with examples from twenty-eight years of US public engagement on LGBT equality, this book offers a practical model for the growth of deliberative democracy in which everyone can take part. It identifies the necessary social catalysts, the role of social networks and technology, and key pathways to addressing unconscious bias, hidden fears, and identity based polarization as they were overcome in the LGBT case. It demonstrates how each person can gain voice and influence in a deliberative democracy in which people once again become the true source of political power. This book will interest anyone who cares about the future of democracy.

EDWINA BARVOSA is an associate professor at UC Santa Barbara who holds a PhD in Government from Harvard University and an MA from Cambridge University. An interdisciplinary social scientist and applied theorist, she focuses on democracy, social change, and resolving the influence of implicit bias in organizations and governance, especially of socially inherited biases stored as contradictions within the self. She is the author of *Wealth of Selves: Multiple Identities, Mestiza Consciousness, and the Subject of Politics* (2008) and articles in journals such as *Perspectives on Politics* and the *Journal of Political Philosophy*.

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Deliberative Democracy Now

LGBT Equality and the Emergence
of Large-Scale Deliberative Systems

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-42518-6 — Deliberative Democracy Now
Edwina Barvosa
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108425186
DOI: 10.1017/9781108688079

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First published 2018

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Barvosa, Edwina, author.

Title: Deliberative democracy now : LGBT equality and the emergence of large-scale deliberative systems / Edwina Barvosa.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, [2018] | Series: Theories of institutional design | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017053781 | ISBN 9781108425186

Subjects: LCSH: Deliberative democracy – United States. | Political participation – United States. | Sexual minorities – Civil rights – United States

Classification: LCC JK1726 .B29 2018 | DDC 323.3/260973–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017053781>

ISBN 978-1-108-42518-6 Hardback

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*Dedico esta obra a mis seres queridos y al legado de mis
antepasados al cual he intentado ser fiel/*

I dedicate this work to my loved ones and to the legacy of my
ancestors, to which I have tried to be faithful
and
to the students of democracy everywhere—
you are the future.

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Acknowledgments

I am indebted to the many scholars and other specialists who have written on deliberative democracy over the decades, together building a literature that unites scholarship and hope for a better world. As a theorist, my observations of social life are ongoing, but my understanding always evolves from my interactions with others. In this project, I have benefitted from transformative interactions in a diversity of settings. I received invaluable intellectual feedback as well as financial support as an affiliate researcher at the National Science Foundation Center for Nanotechnology and Society at the University of California at Santa Barbara. This collaborative research center gathered an international network of scholars studying many topics, including processes of public deliberation related to science and technology governance. My work in this book and other writings on the democratization of science governance has been greatly influenced by scholars from this group, including center Director Barbara Herr Harthorn, Nick Pidgeon, Terre Satterfield, Robin Gregory, Karen Henwood, Tristan Partridge, Merryn Thomas, and Christina Demski. Thanks especially to Merryn Thomas for organizing group comments on an earlier draft. My thanks also go to members of the Understanding Risk Research Group at the University of Cardiff who kindly offered feedback on this work in June of 2014. I am also grateful to the CNS staff members who supported my participation in the research team including Val Kuan, Shawn Barcelona, and Bonnie Molitor. Overall, this text is based on research supported by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) under Cooperative Agreement # SES-0938099. The opinions, findings, and conclusions offered herein are mine and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF.

In addition, a team of seven undergraduate students contributed to this project as research assistants helping to gather the original data for this study. They include Kimberly Bolanos, Danielle Cizek, Andrew

Acknowledgments

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Farkash, Briahn McClarty, Ryan Orihood, Evan Tambini, and Riane Torres. Guadalupe Perez and Diana Solano also provided subsequent research assistance. My thanks go to the entire team and to then graduate student Chloe Diamond-Lenow who collaborated with me in overseeing the working group and also provided technological expertise. I am especially grateful to Chloe whose contributions to organizing the data were crucial to completing this project. My special thanks also go to Rosie Bermudez who provided expert research assistance throughout the writing and production of this manuscript; her insights into the material deepened my own reflections. I am grateful for inspiring student engagement in my courses *Democratizing Gender* and *Democracy and Diversity*, especially to the 2011 cohort, and for conversations on this topic with former graduate student and now colleague Kathleen Cole. Thanks also to Amy Foss and Ana Barba for sharing their insights on social media as part of youth organizing and social change.

Much about the formation of deliberative democracy described in this book hinges on understanding how implicit bias – the product in part of social inheritances – influences everyday life, and how the willingness to courageously respond to it might best be found. In my effort to observe implicit bias in organizations and in governance, and to reflect on mitigation options, I have benefitted enormously from conversations with attorneys working in diverse capacities in Southern California, including insights gathered from working as an expert witness and as a continuing legal education instructor on implicit bias. My thanks go to all those who took the time to share their diverse perspectives on bias with me during the period of this project, including Mark Saatjian, Michael Hanley, Tara Haaland Ford, Steve Dunkle, Ann Richardson, and participants in my continuing legal education trainings on the mitigation of bias.

Among the many scholars for whose influence I am grateful, I especially thank John Garcia and Valerie Martínez-Ebers for their careful guidance over time. I am thankful also to the members of the APSA Latino Caucus for community, encouragement, and friendship. I am also especially grateful to CUP series editor Robert Goodin – a renowned scholar of deliberative democracy. His encouragement and critical feedback on this project has been invaluable. Likewise, I offer my special thanks to the three anonymous reviewers for CUP who provided extremely valuable feedback that helped me to improve

and refine this offering. I also thank the team at Cambridge University Press who guided me expertly through the review and production process, especially John Haslam and Julie Hrischeva, who supported me unwaveringly throughout, including during the final editing of this book, which took place during historic wildfires and landslides in my location.

Lastly, it gives me joy to thank my family and friends who gave me loving encouragement and support as I completed this project, including all who sustained my health and wellness. Many thanks go to my brother Eduardo Barvosa II, Natalie Schonfeld, Jana Renner, Ben Flores, Allan Walters, John Lubina, Lance Todd, Dave Malinowski, Wendy Bowers, Lara Kelly, Dee Langford, Amanda Crowell, Lisa West, Lissa McGraw, Cheryl G, David Hallegua, and my mother Pamela – who all cheered and eased my path. Lastly, in remembrance I thank my father Eduardo Barvosa, Sr. who passed away in 2015. My dad encouraged me in this project at every opportunity and he inspires it still. I am grateful for the bountiful love and intellectual support that I have been given during this project. Any and all errors or omissions remain my own.