

Globalization and Democracy: Insights from Research on Promissory Representation

Abstract

There is a lively scholarly and public debate on the consequences of globalization for democracy. Some argue that globalization is incompatible with strong national democracy, while others believe that globalization can strengthen it. Research on promissory representation moves beyond this polarized debate by offering insights into the consequences of globalization for key aspects of democratic representation. Promissory representation is the idea that a significant part of representation consists of political candidates making promises to citizens during election campaigns and keeping those promises if they have a chance to do so after elections. This lecture gives an overview of the field of promissory representation, focusing on parties' election campaign promises in a range of established democracies. It will cover the field's development and expansion over the past decades, and emerging research on the impact of globalization on promissory representation.