

The Democratic Promise



Jérôme Melançon *A Ronning Centre Seminar*

All Canadian politicians commit themselves to democracy and present themselves as democrats. Yet their practice is sometimes described as anti-democratic and the meaning of their democratic promise is not clear. Indeed, institutional reforms are rare and debates show that politicians understand democracy chiefly in democratic terms and always within the framework of current governmental institutions. We can perhaps oppose the promise made by politicians and the institutions that form the context of their action, to the promise of a democratic movement. In this way, we might be able to open new and wider possibilities for democratic practice, and develop the idea of democracy as the value that ought to guide our society.

Jérôme Melançon teaches political philosophy and Canadian politics at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus. He is also the author of a PhD dissertation on the French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and of a book of poetry, *De perdre tes pas*, to be published shortly at the *Éditions des Plaines*.

Wednesday, 22 September 2010, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

C103, Classroom Building, Augustana Campus

4901 - 46 Avenue, Camrose

No pre-registration is required, and there is no fee to attend this event.

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