

A Democratic Faith

Jérôme Melançon

We tend to understand democracy as a combination of free, fair, and frequent elections with some public consultations and protections for human rights. But we can also understand democracy as the power of the people, as the effort to create institutions for the people to rule themselves. After all, the very act of voting requires that we trust millions of people we will never know or meet. The concept of faith as a fundamental human experience helps explain what exactly “the people” are, why we believe we can trust them, and why we ought to continue to do so, to an ever greater degree.

Jérôme Melançon teaches political philosophy and Canadian politics at the University of Alberta Augustana Campus. Through a series of articles and a book manuscript, he is developing a philosophy of democracy understood as a movement against a persistent authoritarianism – a critical philosophy based in personal experiences of politics, literature, and of life in common. He is the author of a doctoral dissertation on the French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty (2008) and of a book of poetry, *De perdre tes pas* (2011). He lives in Camrose, Alberta, and has lived in Québec, Saskatchewan, and France.



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Tuesday, 26 February, 2:15-3:30 p.m.

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