

# Epistemic Democracy

The Politics of Knowledge and the  
Constitution of Modern Societies

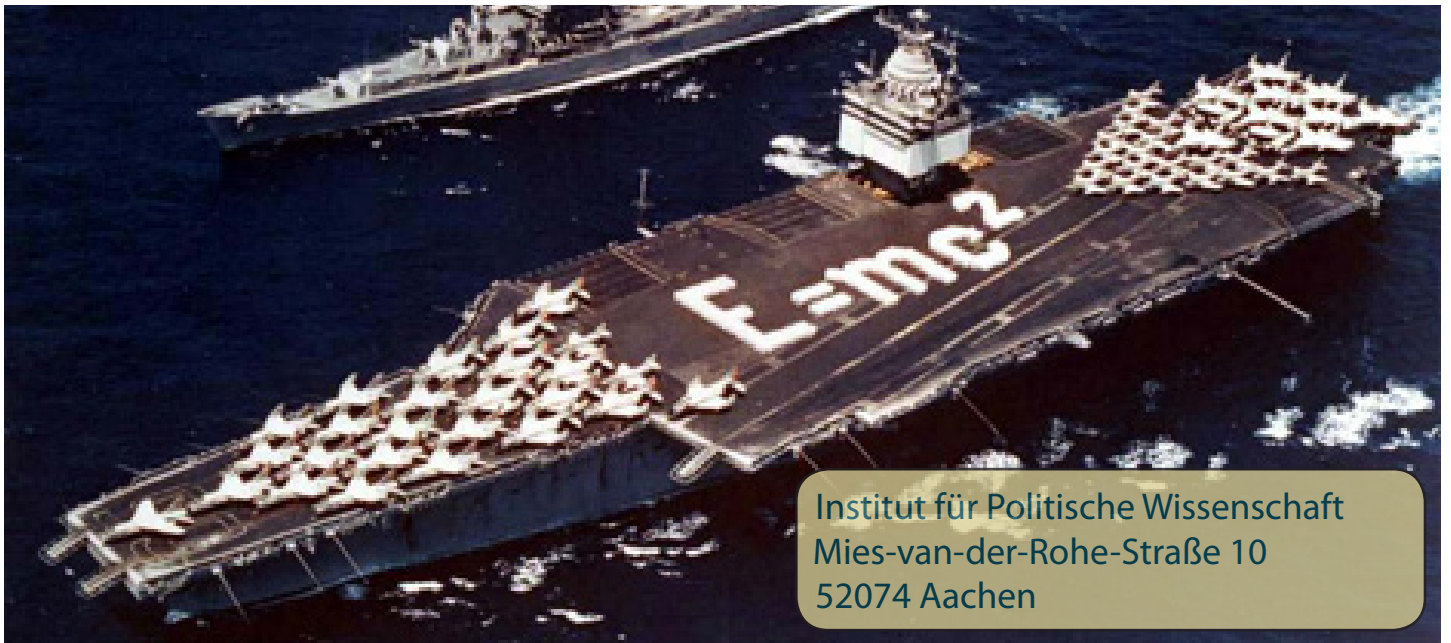


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Democracy is never straightforward; nevertheless, democracy is generally understood as a straightforwardly political problem. Its central elements--elections, representation, rights, deliberation, transparency, accountability, pluralism--are taken to be the rightful subjects of political science. Yet, modern societies have, since the 17th century, increasingly also viewed politics as a place for reason and rationality, and they have slowly but inexorably imbued the exercise of power with the power of technology and science. It is therefore increasingly important to reconcile our ideas about democracy with our evolving understanding of the politics of knowledge. My goal in this talk is to open up this discussion with the question: what does it mean to view democracy as a problem of epistemology?



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