Call for Proposals

The word "democracy" is increasingly attached to an array of concepts, themes and political and social realities and visions, yet there are currently a number of groups, movements, interests and actors around the world who are contesting the normative, hegemonic meaning and manifestation of formal (mainstream) democracy. Many people do not see their interests served by electoral, representative democracy, that which concerns political parties, voting and tightly controlled electoral processes. Rather, there is visible concern in many quarters with not only the formal process of how elections are shaped and governments are formed but, also, with the political, economic, cultural, social and militaristic outcomes of such institutionalized configurations. There is widespread cynicism, decreasing voter participation, the general sentiment of disenfranchisement and marginalization, and increasing levels of resistance and mobilization in the form of alternatives to the formal "democratic" model, which could be characterized as "counter-hegemonic democracy".

Counter-hegemonic democracy concerns lived realities inside of as well as outside of the formal political vacuum, touching on how people seek to build a more resilient, deeper, thicker, more critically engaged and meaningful democracy. Some examples could be the mass anti-war, pro-environment, Occupy, World Social Forum and other social movements that have sought to remove some governments and make others more accountable, or to make the world bodies that frame international politics more aligned with the needs of the masses that do not control the levers of power. There are also many other movements that start and cultivate causes through social media, or which seek some form of change at the local level. While often omitted from the mainstream media, many people are not perturbed from seeking social and political change outside of the formal strictures and structures of power. The notion of strictly defined and formalized elite decision-making circles controlling the thoughts and actions of the plurality of interests, identities and projects is increasingly brought to light at the international level, despite the hegemonic grip on emphasizing empire of normative democracy.

This book series connects with this notion of counter-hegemonic democracy, and seeks out debates, ideas, concerns, examples and proposals that extend and construct knowledge within an inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary vantage-point, including sociology, political science, political economy, economics, education, cultural studies and other connected areas. The books in this series will speak to educators, researchers, scholars, and students interested in democracy, political sociology, multicultural education, social movements, decolonization, media studies and peace studies as well
as other connected areas.

Guidelines for submitting a proposal to our book series can be found here.

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Books in this series:

- The Red Road (Čhaŋkú Lúta)
- Democratizing Leadership

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The diversity and Inclusion movement in corporations and higher education has mostly fallen short of its most authentic goals. This is because it relies upon the dominant worldview that created and creates the problems it attempts to address. Rediscovering and applying our original Indigenous worldview offers a remedy that can bring forth a deeper and broader respect for diversity, and a different way to understand and honor it. This book offers a transformative learning opportunity for preserving diverse environments at every level, one that may be a matter of human survival.

Praise for: The Red Road: Linking Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives to Indigenous Worldview

"Four Arrows has combined his internationally respected scholarship on Indigenous worldview with experience based story-telling to help bring forth a more effective way to actualize authentic respect for diversity, especially as it relates to transformational curricula in higher education. Had humanity begun this project long ago, Nature would not have to be bringing us back into balance so radically now."

Tom McCallum
(White Standing Buffalo)
Métis/Michif-speaking elder, Cree Sundance Lodge Keeper, and author

"Five hundred years of colonization has divided humanity, separated us from our relatives, and reduced them to objects to be exploited for commerce and greed. We are now steeped in multiple life threatening crises, and staring at extinction. The road of violence, extermination and extinction has been paved by colonizing the land, diverse cultures, our minds and the future. The Red Road: Linking Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives to Indigenous Worldview by Four Arrows provides a path to the future, a path of peace, with signposts from Indigenous world views that recognize that we are interconnected and are all members of one Earth family. Our highest duty, our Dharma, is living in harmony with all our relations."

Vandana Shiva Scholar
Physicist, environmental activists and recipient of the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize, the Right Livelihood Award, Director of NAVDANYA and author of over 20 books, including Oneness vs. the 1% and Who Really Feeds the World


Democratizing Leadership: Counter-hegemonic Democracy in Communities, Organizations and Institutions

Mike Klein, University of St. Thomas


Democratizing Leadership: Counter-hegemonic Democracy in Organizations, Institutions, and Communities promotes leadership in the democratization of culture to counter the current hegemony of domination and cultivate an alternative hegemony of collaboration. It is premised on a leadership framework for decision-making rooted in democratic voice and leading to collective action. This broad peacebuilding prescription for individual and collective agency accounts for the constructive role of conflict in democratic pluralism, and the need to develop practices and structures that prevent violent conflict in order to advance positive peace. This theory addresses the contexts of deliberative, agonistic, and revolutionary
Democratizing Leadership is informed by three qualitative case studies described in rich detail. First Bank System Visual Art Program, In the Heart of the Beast Theater's May Day Ritual, and The Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers exemplify the practice of democratizing leadership. These diverse settings include corporate banking during 1980's deregulation, an annual community May Day parade, and an informal alliance of peacemaking organizations. Leadership in each case promotes authentic voice, encourages decision-making with integrity, and advocates for responsible collective action.

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