What are the critical gaps in our understanding of citizen support for democracy?

<table>
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<th>Question</th>
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<td>What are effective and enduring ways to boost support for democratic principles that counter executive aggrandizement?</td>
<td>The link between cognitive states and political behavior.</td>
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<td>How resilient is support for democracy?</td>
<td>the impact of corruption and the perception of corruption on support for democratic governance</td>
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<td>We don’t know citizens motivations for supporting or not the democratic systems</td>
<td>Incentives. We often don’t understand what would incentivize a citizen to support democracy, an often vague concept.</td>
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<td>Our comprehension of the consequences of extreme poverty</td>
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<td>our own assumptions of what democracy means to different people around the world.</td>
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What are the critical gaps in our understanding of citizen support for democracy?

- How to establish, maintain, or regain trust in government institutions by the citizens.
- What interventions/improvements can help overcome citizen apathy?
- Support for authoritarian principles and values, regimes and leaders...
- How to eliminate barriers to participation for marginalized groups.
- Cultural differences in how that support is expressed and can be measured.
- Lack of innovative approaches in our work in favor of democracy.
- We may be uninterested because of complacency or blind because of personal ambitions. On the technical side, we need much more survey work like Graham & Svolik.
- Understanding cultural contexts in terms of how, when, through whom and through what mediums citizens of specific communities and cultures are willing and feel empowered to support democracy.
- Citizen trust in democratic institutions and processes.
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- How to address rising public opinion that democracy could not prove its effectiveness and responsiveness to global challenges.
- Understanding and accepting various expectations that various citizen groups have vis-à-vis democratic institutions and procedures.
- Why are people so gullible, to believe what they read on social media?
- Pay attention to cultural and art that talks directly to the people.
- We lack capacities to translate democratic values into worldviews that address and speak to the fears expressed by large number of people.
- Lack of citizen trust in their governments’ ability to deliver on their needs.
- What actually drives citizen support for democracy? Effective government? Culture/values? Political leadership? And is there a sine qua non for citizen support?
- Why do we continue to act surprised that citizen support for democracy is on decline when people see elected officials mired in gridlock and many democracies not delivering for them in a material way?
- I think we need to ensure democratic practices are rooted in key elements of the local cultures.
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- There is a need to move beyond theory and work with folks who are working for democracy at the grassroots level.
- Why they turn away from democracy to look for solutions.
- It seems like there is a lack of understanding or general oversight of what individuals can do to support democracy going forward, with a particular lack of emphasis on how capitalism plays a role in the degradation of democracy and how to combat it.
- Lack of tools and processes which capture the real thoughts of people. We use standard language without local key concepts. Or our concepts does not match with the local understanding.
- Trend analysis of the information environment impacts on citizen trust.
- Democracy is not real or is not close to vulnerable populations.
- Inadequacy of institution and people's needs. Electoral process not aligning with people's profound desires for socio-economic and political justice.
- I think we need to identify in each country what cultural practices that enhance trust and cohesion can be linked to democratic values and practices.
- Lack of understanding of pro democracy movement: what triggers them, how they form, how to support them and how to move from the protest to actual democracy building and governing.
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- Differences between groups (gender, age, ethnicity...)
- Misinformation through traditional and social media
- Need more diverse voices speaking at panels like this!

- Trust in government and politics has plummeted all over the world but has grown in other actors and institutions. How will this impact our own thinking of traditional democratic practices?
- I'm not sure we listen. We conduct surveys and people tell us why they are frustrated, but our policies and work do not always address those issues in concrete ways.

- Tremendous impact of misinformation from traditional and social media
- Lack of understanding

- Do we know how much rising inequality affects people's perception of democracy?
- Defining representation can be a challenge in multicultural countries with big inequalities. Who has a legitimate representation of diverse social groups non-organized and which are not represented by political parties.
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Our understanding of democracy tends to be through a western lens in which the democracies of the United States & England tend to dominate the conversation. In reality, citizenries around the world may not want the same type of democracy.

In order democracy to be trusted it has to be bottom-up and to include as much as possible public participation, where possible, this way people experience governance as more accountable and it becomes more transparent

Mistrust of systems due to corruption

I think the challenge is how to bring together a cross-section of partners across silos/sectors and geographies to work together to tackle the most pressing threats to democracy - building trust-based partnerships and solidarity are a pre-req.

A critical gap: encouraging “unlikely” activists to participate. Especially those who believe they can’t affect change, or are afraid to participate, in demanding inclusive and responsive governance. Can civil resistance tactics play a role?

Many surveys assume universal understanding of what democracy is.

Considering that a more equitable economy should be the missing 4th pillar

What are the key drivers of declining trust in democracy?

Assertions of support are not the same as action in support.
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- How to build resilience to disinformation that undermines trust in democracy and democratic institutions that are performing or trying to perform
- Effective, decentralized public service delivery is a key element in ensuring public support for democracy.