

Symposium Agenda: The State of Canada’s Constitutional Democracy

**Friday, February 26, 2016**

Solarium, Falconer Hall, Faculty of Law

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| ***8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions***  |
| ***8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*** **A. Democratic Process: elections, funding duration, franchise, omnibus bills, retroactive legislation, government formation** * Adam Dodek, University of Ottawa – The Constitutional Problems of Omnibus Budget Bills
* Hugo Cyr, University du Québec à Montréal – Government Formation
* Yasmin Dawood, University of Toronto – Current Challenges in Election Law and  the Possibilities for Electoral Reform
* Josh Hunter, Attorney General of Ontario – Limits on Proposed Democratic  Institutions Reforms without Constitutional Amendments
 |
| ***10:30a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break***  |
| ***11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.*** **B. Constitutionalism, Administration of Justice and Rule of Law:** * Mark Walters, Queen’s University – Executive Prerogative and Constitutional Duties
* Cara Zwibel, Canadian Civil Liberties Association – Commons Committees and the Constitution
* Vincent Kazmierski, Carlton University – Accessing with Dinosaurs; Key Steps to Increasing Access to Information in Canada
* Jennifer Raso, University of Toronto – Accessible Information and Constitutional Democracy: Who Counts?
* Charlie Feldman, McGill University – Charter Compliance and the Parliamentary Process: Questions of Design
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| ***12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Lunch*** **Lunch Talk: Robert Hazell, University College London – Reflections on Constitutional Change**  |
| ***2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.*** **C. Democratic Function: House of Commons, the Senate, role of Cabinet and individual Ministers, PMO** * Mel Cappe, University of Toronto – Comments on the role of the PCO & PMO
* Peter Russell, University of Toronto - Constitutional Conventions and Democratic  Illiteracy
* Bruce Ryder, Osgoode Hall Law School – Reining in the Imperial Prime Minister:  Executive Power and the Rule of Law
* Benjamin Hanff, University of Toronto – Conventions and Political Marketing
 |
| ***3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Break***  |
|  ***4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.*** **D. Robert Hazell – Reflections on Constitutional Change**  |

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|  ***9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.*** **E. Constitutional Governance** * Carissima Mathen, University of Ottawa – Government Response to the Outcomes of Constitutional Litigation
* Hon. Irwin Cotler, formerly Minister of Justice, McGill University
* Lorraine Weinrib, University of Toronto
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|  ***10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Break***  |
| ***11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*** **F. Public Appointments: procedure, independence, merit, transparency:** Supreme Court of Canada Appointments**,** Senate Appointments * John Whyte, University of Regina: Appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada
* David Schneiderman, University of Toronto – Supreme Court Appointment  Processes
* Errol Mendes, University of Ottawa – Constitutional Options After the Supreme  Court Decision in Ref. re. Senate Reform: Restoring Trust and Credibility in Parliament through Senate Reform
 |
| ***12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch*** **Lunch Talk: Robert Hazell – Reflections on Constitutional Change**  |