

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 |
| ***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** |

**Saturday, February 27, 2016**

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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 |
| ***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** |