

WSSR

WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Canadian Elections-Past, Present and Future: What have we learned after 150 years?

Dr. John Courtney

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May 10-11, 2017

9:00am – 4:30pm

Purpose: Dr. Courtney's workshop is devoted to an analysis of Canada's electoral system past, present and future. What works, what doesn't, and what needs to be changed? He will examine the five "building blocks" of "Canada's Electoral Democracy": The Franchise; Electoral Districting; Voter Enumeration/Registration; Electoral Administration; and the First-Past-the-Post method of voting.

Participants will learn about the changes that each of the five elements of Canada's electoral system have undergone and, where appropriate, will be introduced to comparative reference points in order to assess how Canadian electoral democracy fairs in relation to electoral systems abroad. Finally, Dr. Courtney will examine the ways in which electoral democracy in Canada works today and how it might look in the future.

Required Readings

John C. Courtney, "Can Canada's Past Electoral Reforms Help to Understand the Debate over its Method of Election?" in Richard Simeon and Patti Tamara Lenard (eds.), *Imperfect Democracies: The Democratic Deficit in Canada and the United States* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2012). 111-137.

John C. Courtney, "Forty and Counting," and Heather MacIvor, "Appendix 2:2: A Brief History of Canadian Elections," in Heather MacIvor (ed.), *Election* (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2009), 7-31.

John C. Courtney, "Is Electoral Reform Just Whistling in the Wind?" in Paul Howe, Richard Johnston and André Blais (eds.), *Strengthening Canadian Democracy* (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy, 2005), 149-58.