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Title: “Democracy, Citizenship, and the State: O'Donnell's Critique of Procedural Democracy”

Abstract: O'Donnell outlined the foundations of a new framework for comparative theories on democratization based upon a critique of procedural democracy. His approach, though, involved a subtle and nuanced move. He accepted democracy as a political concept, thus rejecting any attempt to frame it on substantive terms. At the same time, he broadened the concept of democracy by anchoring it to the notion of the citizen as a moral agent, thus bringing into the democratic core fundamental issues such as political power, and the State. Based on his idea of democracy as an open-ended concept, in this article I reflect on the consequences over the notions of democratization and the quality of democracy.

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