

Governance Archaeology: Collective Governance in Global History

Dr. Frederica Carugati (King's College London)

The 18th century regime of electoral republicanism within nation-states, later rebranded as “democracy,” appears to be threatened around the world, and an unappealing cadre of authoritarians has lined up to take its place. Those dissatisfied with the current governance paradigm demand meaningful inclusion in the political process. Where should we turn for inspiration on how to build collective governance institutions for the 21st century? This paper presents the results of a deep dive into historical collective governance around the world. We describe the project’s motivation, data, and some preliminary findings suggesting variation in the mechanisms of collective governance across region and community size. These findings put pressure on well-known social scientific assumptions and present a more fine-grained picture of the conditions that may sustain robust collective governance institutions.