

Leonardo Avritzer is a full professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. He has a Ph.D. in political sociology from the New School for Social Research, where his dissertation received the Albert Salomon Dissertation Award. Avritzer has been teaching political theory, democratic theory with focus on participatory and deliberative democracy, and institutional innovations. He was a visiting scholar in several universities: Department of Political Science at MIT (1998 and 2003); University of São Paulo (2004); Tulane University, where he occupied the Greenleaf Chair (2008); and University of Coimbra, where he teaches regularly since 2009. Since 2016, he coordinates the INCT – Institute of Democracy, a consortium that investigates democracy and democratic habits in Brazil and in Argentina focusing on the media, public opinion and legislative power. The Project aggregates four main universities (UFMG, UERJ, Unicamp and UnB) and includes researchers from other institutions.

His research interests include democratic theory and participatory institutions and recently have moved to the crisis of democracy. This is the theme of his recent books *O pêndulo da democracia no Brasil/ The pendulum of democracy in Brazil*, published in 2019, and *Os impasses da democracia no Brasil/ Deadlocks of Brazilian democracy*, 2016. Avritzer is also the author of *Democracy and the Public Space in Latin America*, published by Princeton University Press, and *The Two Faces of Institutional Innovation: Promises and Limits of Democratic Participation in Latin America*, published in 2017, and *Los desafíos de la participación en América Latina*, 2014.

Leonardo Avritzer has also been engaged in academic administration and representation. Between 1996 and 1998 he was the director of the Brazilian Association of Postgraduate Programs and Research in Social Sciences (ANPOCS). He was president of the Brazilian Association of Political Science (ABCP) from 2012 to 2016. His administrative duties included representation of the area Political Science and International Relations at the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (Capes), the agency in charge of the evaluation and ranking of graduate programs in Brazil.

Leonardo Avritzer has a long-term practical concern with the deepening of democracy in Latin America. He has engaged in initiatives for expanding participatory democracy in Brazil including local participatory budget since the 1990s and conferences on public policies at national and state levels in the 2000s. He has helped in the implementation of participatory budgeting in many cities and has also been consultant for the evaluation of the implementation of councils at the national level. He has written extensively about these experiences and their connections to both the role of civil society in democracy-building and democratic theory. In this area, he also engaged in collective and comparative research efforts that led to works such as the Ford Foundation project on civil society in Latin America, the IDS project on experiences of citizenship participation in developing countries and World Bank projects on participatory budgeting.