

LAW AND DEMOCRACY WEEK

Course n°11: Machinery of Government (David Brown)



David Brown is a Part-time Professor and SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellow in the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa. He received a BA (1971) and MA (1973) in political science from the University of Toronto. After a career in the Canadian federal public service, in 2011 he obtained a PhD in political science from Carleton University.

David Brown has extensive experience in international comparative public administration. He was for many years a Canadian delegate to the OECD's Public Management Committee and for seven years chaired the international committee of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC). He currently leads an IIAS comparative research project on government capacity for contingency planning and crisis management.

This seminar devoted to the institutional aspects of the Executive Branch; inquiry into the forces at play in structuring governments; the mélange of political and legal influences in determining how governments set themselves up to achieve their objectives; the life-cycle of departmental institutions; examination of whether legal obligations can prevent political or discretionary rearrangement of institutions. This session will also touch on government management in compliance with legality; the conflict between institutional loyalty and observance of legal norms; and methods of sanctioning public service activity outside the bounds of legality. There will be examination of the role of the Department vis-à-vis other institutions of government; differentiation between political or institutional loyalty and professional application of the supremacy of legal norms; analysis of the particular nature of the duties of government lawyers, both in the Department of Justice and in other forms of public employment.