

Democratic Legitimacy and Corporate Involvement in the Public Sphere

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- Scherer and Palazzo (2006, 2007) argue for democratizing corporations, but they do not go far enough

Deliberative Democracy

- Society should be governed by the conclusions of free, unforced, rational deliberation among citizens

- Corporations must be embedded in wider social practices of deliberation and justification



- **Forest Stewardship Council**

Problem 1

- Corporations should not participate in deliberations in the same way as NGOs

Are corporations “representative”?

1. Membership
2. Accepting a political view
3. Process of ID formation
4. Homogeneity of views
5. Responsive structure

Problem 1

- Corp.s should participate as expert consultants, not as principals

Problem 2

- Dissensual communication is normal, so corporations must be subject to voting mechanisms

Problem 3

- Can corporations simply opt out of involvement in the public sphere?

- Realizing the ideal of deliberative democracy requires stronger forms of democratic control over corporations than S & P suggest