

Deliberative Muscles & AI

How can DelibTech strengthen citizens' capacities to deliberate?

DemocracyNext

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The authors argue that AI, when designed with care, can indeed play a powerful role in strengthening deliberation. But the very efficiencies that make AI attractive also risk undermining what deliberation is for in the first place.

They offer a typology of seven deliberative muscles, and how AI integration can help or hinder each.



Speakers

- [Claudia Chwalisz](#), Founder & CEO, DemocracyNext
- [Sammy McKinney](#), AI & Deliberation Fellow, DemocracyNext, and PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge
- [Eugene Yi](#), Impact Research Fellow, DemocracyNext
- [Lisa Gutermuth](#), Senior Program Officer, Mozilla Foundation
- [Maggie Hughes](#), CEO & Co-founder, Convoca
- [Mauricio Mejía](#), Advisor on democratic change
- [Andrew Sorota](#), Head of Research at the Office of Eric Schmidt (Moderator)

Key ideas

- **Andrew:** This is the third in a series of papers about scaling deliberation. First was the what, next was how; this one is about why.
- **Lisa:** Whether you're a funder, policymaker or practitioner - this framework helps you to make decisions about what is complementary and competitive, and what direction you can build in. It's useful for funders to determine what is a helpful application and what's valuable to the ecosystem.
- **Maggie:** The naming of the seven muscles and the competitive/complementary analysis helps us as builders to make sense of the analysis of our learnings and informs future building. The granularity of design choices can have a big impact on whether muscles are being built or are atrophying. The pursuit of interoperability and open sourcing allows us to experiment and play in this space.
- **Mauricio:** The muscles lens helps the participation community to promote moving democracy from processes to culture, and to see it as an investment. Human decision making is complex, often full of challenges and friction - we should keep that in mind and not be in search of synthetic things. If we want to strengthen the dialogue muscle, the richness of language is important and we need to invest in more democratic development and ownership of AI.