



**Department of Political Science,  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Departmental Seminar Series**

**Democracy and political parties:  
On the uneasy relationship between participation,  
competition and representation**

**Prof. Reuven Y. Hazan  
Political Science, Hebrew University**

**Dr. Gideon Rahat  
Political Science, Hebrew University**

If the quality of democracy incorporates values beyond simple majority choice, then is intra-party democracy likely to further or to impede the advancement of these other values? We address the relationship between internal party democracy, as indicated by the inclusiveness of parties' nomination selectorates, and the realization of two associated democratic values – the extent of both competition in the nomination process and representation among the lists of candidates that emerge. Although we analyze these relationships within party, our interest in them is primarily for their system level impact. We find that the three democratic values of inclusive participation, competition, and representation are unlikely to be simultaneously maximized. Rather the relationships among these values may be non-linear, or even negative. In particular, those parties that are most internally democratic produce lists of candidates that are least representative, and experience only medium levels of competition.