

# Variazioni sul tema dell'*ethos* democratico: una replica

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## *Variations on the Theme of the Democratic Ethos: A Reply*

**Abstract:** In reply to the comments on *The Democratic Horizon* offered by Enrico Biale, Valeria Ottonelli and Marco Santambrogio, the author addresses a common concern underlying all the contributions, namely the role of the democratic ethos in contemporary democracies. In response to Biale, the author restates his view of “openness” and defends the consistency of his own view of democratic supranational governance with the paradigm of deliberative democracy, though acknowledging that different levels of governance ought to be distinguished. In response to Ottonelli, the author points out that the ideal of “popular control” (“government by the governed”) is indeed so central to his view of democracy that he did not contemplate listing it as a separate virtue within the democratic ethos. In response to Santambrogio, the relation of the passion for openness to alternative suggestions such as *agape* (Taylor), *hospitality* (Derrida) and *presumptive generosity* (White) is clarified, and the role of trust-building across diverse cultural constituencies is acknowledged and commented upon.

**Keywords:** Democratic horizon, Democratic ethos, Openness, Governance.

*notizie di POLITEIA*, XXXIII, 126, 2017. ISSN 1128-2401 pp. 179-183