Agenda. Real Utopias Seminar, week 8, October 24, 2013

Random Assemblies

1. Mechanisms to avoid undue influence of rich and powerful (Elsa)
2. Lack of accountability mechanisms in random assemblies (Jiaqi)
3. The problem of representation in random assemblies: Low response rate for participation – partial self-selection problem. Should participation be mandatory (like juries)? (Madi)
4. Desirability:
   - Could this result in broad depolitization because of lack of regular participation? (Jake)
   - Direct democracy vs deliberative democracy: not so clear that the latter is better (Michael)
5. Problem of equal time for opposing views on all issues (Taylor)
6. Deliberative skills: How to develop the deliberative skills of participants in assemblies & citizens? (Alisa)
   Potential marginalization of minority voices, disempowered voices, who lack cultural capital. (Madi)
7. Design detail: Duration and size of given assemblies: what criteria would evaluate this? (Laura)
8. Support by political parties and elites: is this important for Random Assemblies to become institutionalized? (Dmytro)