

The Boundary Problem

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Democracy defined:

a form of **collective decision making**
characterised by **political equality**
and **popular sovereignty**

**But by
whom?**

The question of **who**
is logically prior to **what**
or **how**

THE PROBLEM

Democracy claims legitimacy
Boundaries determine outcomes
Can't be solved democratically

If the process that imbues
authority with legitimacy
doesn't affect the outcome,
how can it be legitimate?

A Brief History

Dahl 1970

Whelan 1983 (the canonical work)

Dahl 1989

Arrhenius 2005

Goodin 2007

Democracy & Legitimacy

Instrumental

Epistemic, Structural, Consequential

Non-Instrumental

Liberty, Equality, Consent

Boundaries

determine

Outcomes

Very little work

:(

Affects all normative
questions of jurisdiction

Democracy

Can't

Solve it

“How can we decide who
the people are without first
presupposing who can
decide who can decide
who the people are?”

Solutions

Nationality?
Geography?

FAIL!

All Affected

“Anyone affected by a
decision should have a say
in its determination”

Multiple Jurisdictions
Degree of Affect
Issue determines Affect
Too inclusive
Potentiality

FAIL!

Consent

Hobbes, Locke, Goodin?

Explicit, Implicit,
Hypothetical?

FAIL!

Works for voluntary
associations
but
States claim exclusive
territorial jurisdiction

Dynamic Federalism?

Maybe