



## Political Sustainability?

Dr Séamus Ó Tuama



## Demise of Nation State?

- While the demise of the nation-state has been greatly exaggerated... Certain functional tasks of political and legal integration once solely in the purview of states are no longer as subject to democratic control and accountability.  
– Bohman (2004) 337-8

## Assumptions about Context of Democracy

Balance between:

- Citizen-Voter & Decision Makers
- Policies & The People (Geographical Territory)

Sovereignty of the Nation State

Congruence & symmetry between decision makers and those effected

... our thinking and acting, laws as well as institutions, practices as well as alliances, are governed by state-centric terms that presuppose the unity of territoriality, the monopoly by the state over the legitimate use of the means of violence, and the attainment of legitimacy through representative institutions"

Seyla Benhabib, 2004





## Complex & Interdependent

'The world that we live in is now more complex and interdependent and highly uneven than ever with regard to the distribution of power and resources'

– Bohman (2005) 312



### Issues Beyond Borders

Ecology

Nuclear  
Waste &  
Disasters

Non-  
Renewable  
Resources

Disease

Capital

Migration

Crime

Virtual  
World



## James Bohman –Nondomination

Concerned about the creation  
of conditions of  
'nondomination'

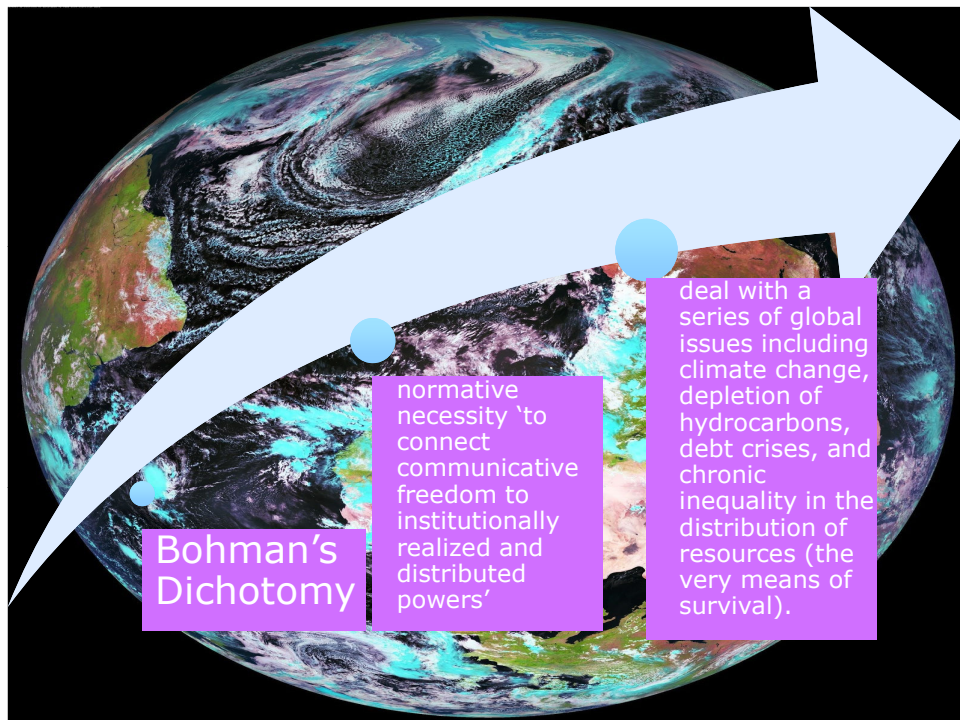
This requires  
the  
deepening of  
reflexive  
democracy

New concepts  
of political  
community

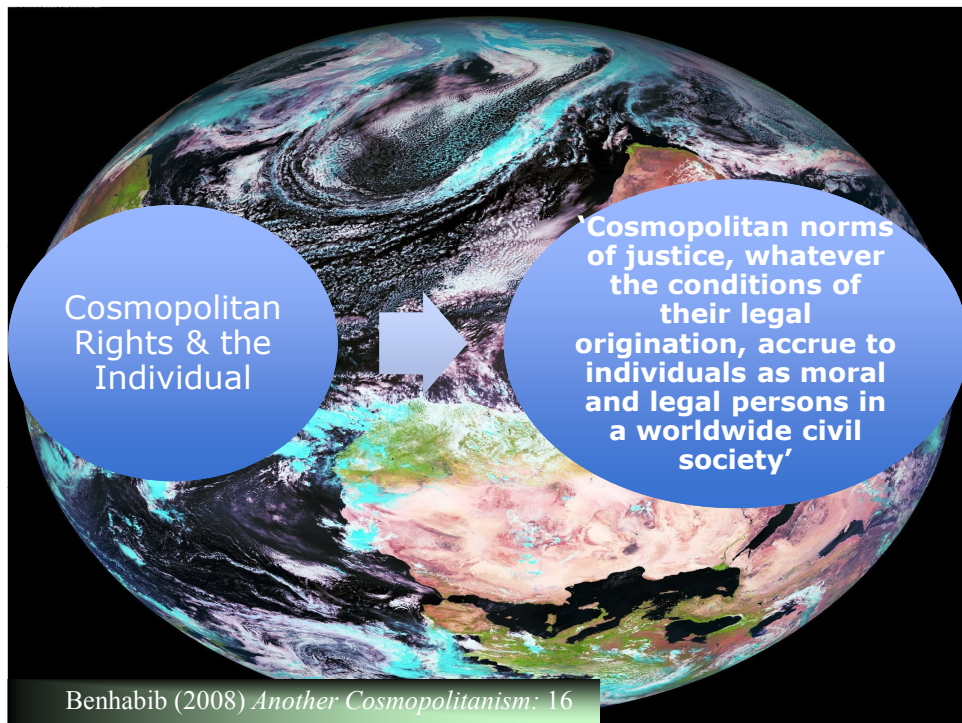
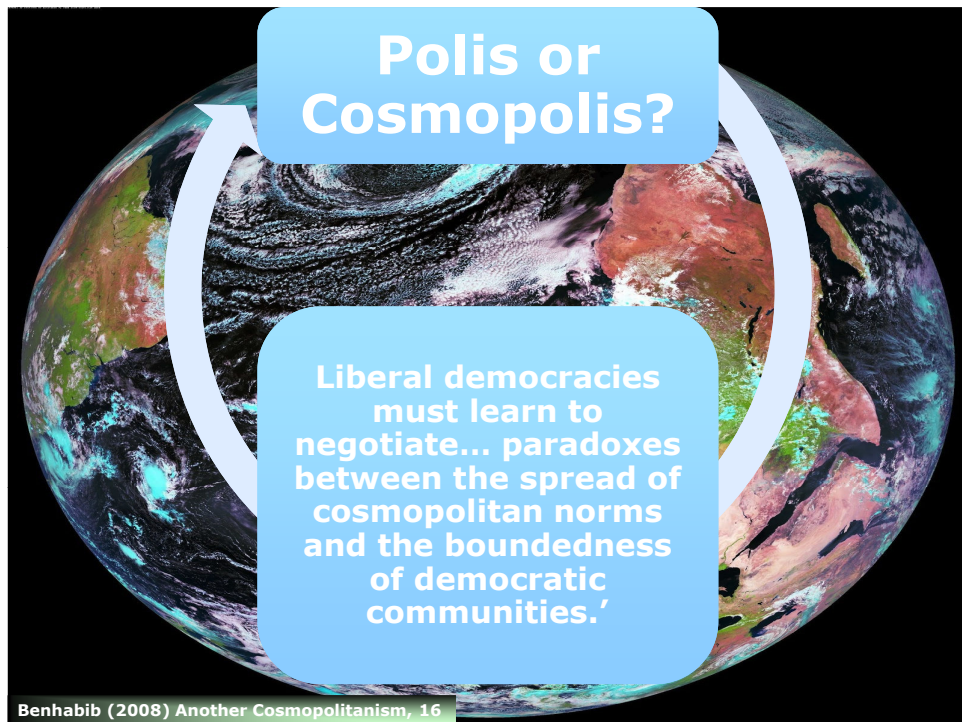
A new  
cosmopolitan  
republicanism

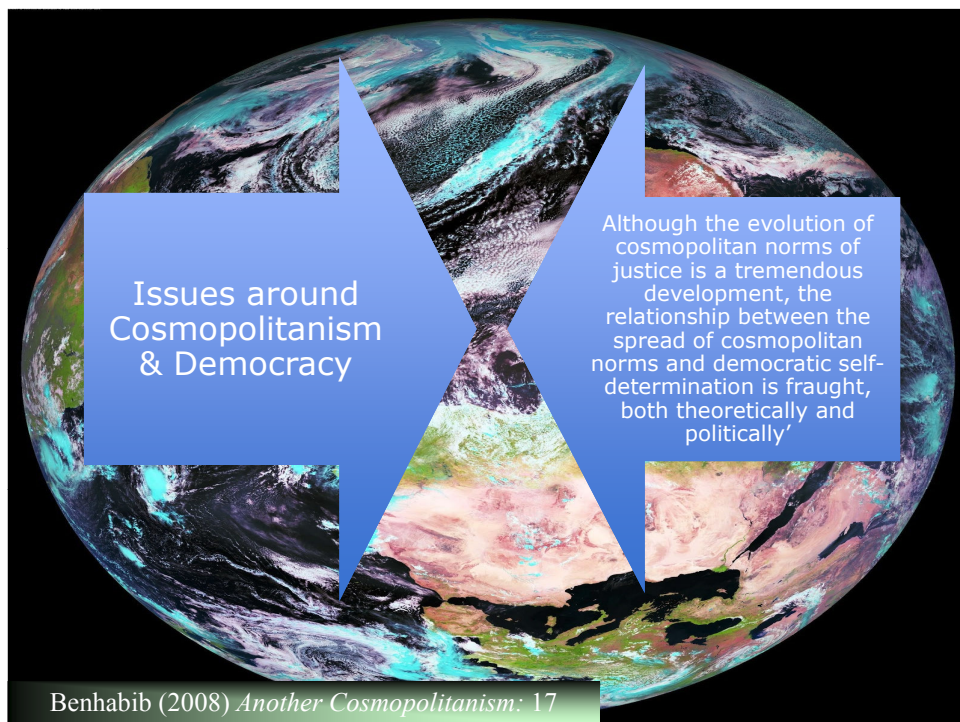
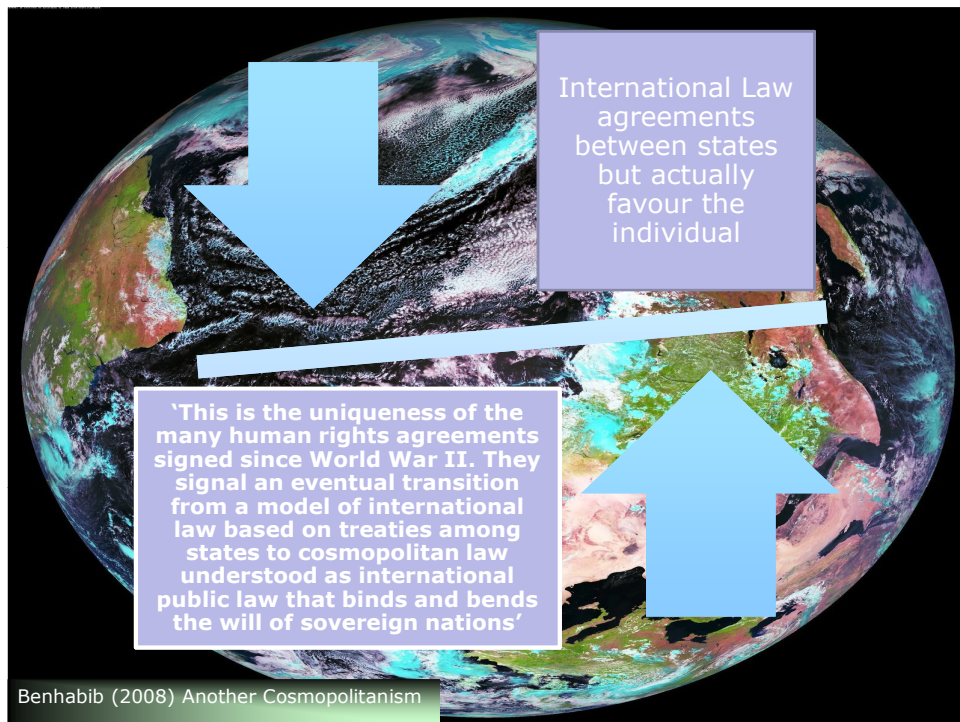
11/6/2012

James Bohman











# Context for Citizenship

*More Globally Interconnected World*

## *Opposing trends:*

- *Nationally defined rights within a political context*
- *Greater recognition of rights in international context*
- *How might citizens initiate a democratic process?*
- *Is there a global public sphere?*





## *Post-Universalism*

*More cognizant of context*

*Opposes notion of universalizing 'the particular'*

*Attempts to downplay deontological ethics*

*keep their essential core*

*proposes 'a certain relativization of universalism'*