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PROFICIÊNCIA EM LEITURA EM LÍNGUA INGLESA

Adapted from: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy in <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/politicalrepresentation>  
**Political Representation.** *First published Mon Jan 2, 2006; substantive revision Fri Jan 6, 2017* edition. ZALTA, Edward; NODELMAN, Uri; ALBEN, Colin; ANDERSON, R. Laniser (*Editorial Board*). Library of Congress Catalog Data. ISSN: 1095-5054. Accessed in 01-26-2017 - 10:31(a.m.).

[1] The concept of political representation is misleadingly simple, which everyone seems to know what it is, yet few can agree on any particular definition. In fact, there is an extensive literature that offers many different definitions of this elusive concept. Hanna Pitkin (1967) provides, perhaps, one of the most straightforward definitions, stating that political representation is the activity of making citizens' voices, opinions, and perspectives "present" in public policy making processes. Political representation occurs when political actors speak, advocate, symbolize, and act on the behalf of others in the political arena. In short, political representation is a kind of political assistance.

[2] **Key Components of Political Representation.** Political representation, on almost any account, will exhibit the following five components: some party that is representing (the representative, an organization, movement, state agency, etc.); some party that is being represented (the constituents, the clients, etc.); something that is being represented (opinions, perspectives, interests, discourses, etc.); and a setting within which the activity of representation is taking place (the political context). Something that is being left out (the opinions, interests, and perspectives not voiced).

[3] Theories of political representation often begin by specifying the terms for the first four components. For instance, democratic theorists often limit the types of representatives being discussed to formal representatives — that is, to representatives who hold elected offices. One reason that the concept of representation remains elusive is that theories of representation often apply only to particular kind of political actors within a particular context. How individuals represent an electoral district is treated as distinct from how social movements, judicial bodies, or informal organizations represent. Consequently, it is unclear how different forms of representation relate to each other.

[4] **Pitkin's Four Views of Representation.** Pitkin offers one of the most comprehensive discussions of the concept of political representation, attending to its contradictory character in her *The Concept of Representation*. Adopting a Wittgensteinian approach to language, Pitkin maintains that in order to understand the concept of political representation, one must consider the different ways in which the term is used. Each of these different uses of the term provides a different view of the concept. Pitkin compares the concept of representation to "a rather complicated, convoluted, three-dimensional structure in the middle of a dark enclosure". Political theorists provide "flash-bulb photographs of the structure taken from different angles" (Pitkin, 1967, p. 10). More specifically, political theorists have provided four main views of the concept of representation.

[5] Each view provides a different approach for examining representation. Pitkin has in many ways set the terms of contemporary discussions about representation by providing this schematic overview of the concept of political representation. First, formalistic representation which by definition is the institutional arrangements that precede and initiate representation. Secondly, symbolic representation that is related to the ways that a representative "stands for" the represented — that is, the meaning that a representative has for those being represented. Forward it come the descriptive representation that is

the extent to which a representative resembles those being represented. And, the fourth named substantive representation, which is the activity of representatives—that is, the actions taken on behalf of, in the interest of, as an agent of, and as a substitute for the represented.

**[6] Contemporary Advances.** There have been a number of important advances in theorizing the concept of political representation. In particular, these advances call into question the traditional way of thinking of political representation as a principal-agent relationship. Most notably, Melissa Williams' recent work has recommended re envisioning the activity of representation in light of the experiences of historically disadvantaged groups. In particular, she recommends understanding representation as “mediation”.

**[7]** In particular, Williams (1998, p. 8) identifies three different dimensions of political life that representatives must “mediate” the dynamics of legislative decision-making, the nature of legislator-constituent relations, and the basis for aggregating citizens into representable constituencies. She explains each aspect by using a corresponding theme (voice, trust, and memory) and by drawing on the experiences of marginalized groups in the United States. For example, drawing on the experiences of American women trying to gain equal citizenship, Williams argues that historically disadvantaged groups need a “voice” in legislative decision-making. The “heavily deliberative” quality of legislative institutions requires the presence of individuals who have direct access to historically excluded perspectives.

**[8]** Williams offers her understanding of representation as mediation as a supplement to what she regards as the traditional conception of liberal representation. Williams identifies two strands in liberal representation. The first strand she describes as the “ideal of fair representation as an outcome of free and open elections in which every citizen has an equally weighted vote” (1998, p. 57). The second strand is interest-group pluralism, which Williams describes as the “theory of the organization of shared social interests with the purpose of securing the equitable representation of those groups in public policies” (*ibid.*).

**[9]** Together, the two strands provide a coherent approach for achieving fair representation, but the traditional conception of liberal representation as made up of simply these two strands is inadequate. In particular, Williams criticizes the traditional conception of liberal representation for failing to take into account the injustices experienced by marginalized groups in the United States. Thus, Williams expands accounts of political representation beyond the question of institutional design and thus, in effect, challenges those who understand representation as simply a matter of formal procedures of authorization and accountability.

**[10] Future Areas of Study.** There are three persistent problems associated with political representation. Each of these problems identifies a future area of investigation. The first problem is the proper institutional design for representative institutions within democratic polities. There is likely to be much debate about the advantages and disadvantages of adopting representative institutions. This leads to a second future line of inquiry — ways in which democratic citizens can be marginalized by representative institutions. This problem is articulated most clearly by Young's discussion of the difficulties arising from one person representing many. A third and final area of research involves the relationship between representation and democracy. Historically, representation was considered to be *in opposition with* democracy. When compared to the direct forms of democracy found in the ancient city-states, notably Athens, representative institutions appear to be poor substitutes for the ways that citizens actively ruled themselves.

**RESPONDA DE ACORDO COM O TEXTO. AS RESPOSTAS DEVEM SER EM PORTUGUÊS**

1) **Considere o Parágrafo [1].** Para Pitkin, o que é e como ocorre a representação política? (2,0 pontos)

É a atividade de fazer com que as vozes, opiniões e perspectivas dos cidadãos estejam presentes no processo de fazer política [ou no fazer político]. Ela ocorre quando os atores políticos falam, advogam, simbolizam e agem em nome dos outros na arena política.

2) **Considere o Parágrafo [2].** Quais os principais componentes da representação política. (1,0 ponto)

Uma parte que representa, uma parte que é representada, algo que é representado, um contexto [cenário, local] onde a representação acontece e algo que é deixado de lado. [Há possibilidade de que os candidatos adicionem exemplos à resposta].

3) **Considere o Parágrafo [3].** Por que o conceito de representação política permanece de difícil compreensão? (1,0 ponto)

Porque as teorias de representação geralmente são aplicadas somente a um tipo particular de atores políticos dentro de um contexto particular.

4) **Considere os Parágrafos [6], [7] e [9].** Leia as sentenças abaixo e assinale, com um X, a ÚNICA sentença correta. (1,0 ponto)

	P[6] A recomendação de Williams é de que a atividade de representação seja re-visualizada à luz das experiências dos grupos majoritários.
	P[7] O argumento de Williams é de que grupos historicamente excluídos não necessariamente precisam de uma “voz” na tomada de decisões legislativas.
X	P[9] A crítica de Williams ao conceito tradicional de representação política se deve ao fato desse conceito não levar em consideração as injustiças que os grupos marginalizados dos EUA vivenciaram.

5) Escreva VERDADEIRO ou FALSO ao lado de cada sentença. (5,0 pontos)

a) <b>Considere o Parágrafo [4].</b> Pitkin sustenta que deve-se considerar as várias formas de uso do termo representação política a fim de se entender o seu conceito.	VERDADEIRO
b) <b>Considere o parágrafo [5].</b> A representação descritiva diz respeito a até que ponto o representante se assemelha àqueles aos quais representa.	VERDADEIRO
c) <b>Considere o parágrafo [7].</b> Uma das dimensões da representação política que deve ser mediada é a tomada de decisões a respeito da vida comum.	FALSO
d) <b>Considere o Parágrafo [8].</b> Para Williams, eleições livres e abertas nas quais os cidadãos têm votos com mesmo peso resultam em uma representação justa.	VERDADEIRO
e) <b>Considere o Parágrafo [10].</b> A relação entre representação e democracia, quando tomamos por base as formas de democracia das antigas cidade-estados, é de complementação.	FALSO