

## The Anxieties of Democracy program welcomes new Director.



Anoush Fraser Terjanian is the newly appointed director of the Social Science Research Council's expanding [Anxieties of Democracy program](#). A tenured associate professor of history at East Carolina University, Terjanian's research focuses on eighteenth-century France in a global context, with a particular interest in the theoretical and practical connections between politics and economics. She earned her PhD at Johns Hopkins University, following degrees in political science and history at Cambridge and McGill Universities.

Born in Canada, and having lived and studied in Egypt, England, France, and Italy, Terjanian brings an international perspective to the program. Her interest in democratic institutions and politics is longstanding: Terjanian is an alumna of Canada's [Parliamentary Internship Programme](#), where she worked for Members of Parliament from both sides of the House, and collaborated with the [Congressional Fellows Program](#) in the United States as well as with counterparts in the United Kingdom and Japan. She also served on Canada's delegation for the G7 Summit, as a Summit Officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Terjanian is the author of *Commerce and Its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century French Political Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

The SSRC's **Anxieties of Democracy program** is motivated by a concern about whether the core institutions of established democracies—elections, mass media, political parties, interest groups, social movements, and, especially, legislatures—can capably contend with large problems in the public interest. Though emphasis will be placed on “anxieties of democracy” in the United States, the program will also work comparatively and conceptually across the globe.

Terjanian is overseeing a new phase for the program, structured around **five working groups** engaging with the diagnosis of our “anxieties of democracy.” Two core groups will analyze the structure of democratic institutions and the problems of citizen access to them. Three policy-oriented working groups will study the potential of representative democracies to meet the challenges posed by climate change, inequality, and state security.

Each of the working groups features a different mix of advanced and early-career scholars from various disciplines, members of the media, and political representatives. The aim is to ensure that social science research can meaningfully address the complex problems facing democratic politics, while better informing the public conversation.

For more information on the **Anxieties of Democracy program** at the SSRC, please visit the program's website: <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/anxieties-of-democracy/>.