Postnational European Democracy?
Three conceptions of „postnational democracy“

1. Historical

2. Representation without a national constituency

3. Non-national democracy
What would we want it to be?

Lively (less “post-democratic“)

Socially significant
Solidarity and democracy

Sharing one‘s fate with others

Reciprocal readiness to support others if they need such support („What happens to others matters to me“)
The dual relevance of solidarity for democracy

Liveliness

Social significance
A socially significant postnational democracy
Conditions of solidarity

Fair play

Long term interest in the place

Mutual recognition

(„Your life is part of my world“)
Why has the national bond been of such overwhelming significance?
Ethical ("communitarian") theory of the nation state

Least embarrassing

Ambivalence
Elements of such a theory

Evaluative context

Held together through mutual recognition

Semblance of the “unconditional”
Nation and state

Master narrative (contested)

Haphazard association
National loyalty

Sense of being connected

Connection is rooted in a shared inheritance

Gives rise to special obligations
What type of connection is it?

Similar to a family
National solidarity as an irresponsible belief

Substitutability of family ties and national ties
Substitution as a symptom

Resolution of a conflict that gives rise to new conflicts

Attempted reconciliation of individual independence with increased dependence on sovereign power
Postnational association:

Is another reconciliation possible?

Sharing one’s fate
Postnational association

Leave open the type of connection
Two ways of imagining community (Yack)

Identify shared cultural inheritance as a source of connection

Explore how a sense of connection can be linked to some latent inheritance
Obstacles

Constitutional patriotism is too weak
Narratives not so easily shared
Cleavages
Hegemony
Imperial demeanor
Conclusions

Negative postnational democracy

Positive postnational democracy?