

Summary

„Bürgerschaft und Freundschaft. Über eine mögliche Lösung des problème fondamental“

by Elif Özmen

In recent years the notion of civil society and civic or political friendship has become important (again) for the debates in political philosophy and political theory. The leading question is about the willingness of the citizens to endorse the political and legal norms that they hypothetically have good reason to consent to. Are the means of law and force adequate to guarantee political unity and stability? Rousseau was well aware of these questions as the tension between modern and ancient elements in the *Contract Social* shows (I). Moreover, there are many passages where he emphasises the importance of the “bond of union” for unifying the community (II). In this paper I propose that Rousseau’s republican idea of the necessity of publicly shared norms of concern could neither be reconstructed in (modern) terms of deliberative democracy, nor as standing in line with (ancient) *philia politike* (III). Therefore the crucial *problème fondamental* of compatibility of individual and collective sovereignty remains an open question.

