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Beyond Narrow Liberalism

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Oral Presentation 3.4

BEYOND NARROW LIBERALISM

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Of growing debate among those concerned with American political culture and democratic theory is the modern conception of liberal democratic theory. This work attempts to broaden our understanding of democracy. I will argue that modern liberalism has narrowed our conception of individual liberty. This narrowed focus has produced a reliance on the use of public regulation and interest group pressure as substitutes for civic engagement. In an attempt to move past a mere critique of narrow liberalism, this essay will develop a research design and an empirical test to measure our current political culture's support for a robust democracy and its future prospects of development.