**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE - 23.3.2020**

**COVID-19 & CLIMATE CHANGE NEED COALITIONS AND CONSENSUS**

**THE JOURNEY IS DONE: AUTHOR RETURNS FROM CHINA**

***Majority Voting as a Catalyst of Populism* (Springer, Heidelberg)**

Having launched the book in Belfast & Brighton, Peter Emerson set off on 1st Oct, surface, *of course*, bus, boat, & train, (with fold-up bike, *of course*), for launches in Leiden, Brussels, Sarajevo, Tbilisi & Moscow. He then, on:

 05.12. 2019 demonstrated electronic voting in decision-making in Beijing BISU University.

 13th held his China book launch, in Xuzhou University.

 05.01.2020. wrote *Breaking Political Deadlock* in Hong Kong’s *South China Morning Post.*

 08th taught in National University of Taiwan in Taipei.

 11th observed & reported on Taiwan’s election.

(24th China. The virus is news.)

 25th enjoyed a Chinese New Year with friends in a village in Gansu Province.

 26th “locked down” in this village. (All of China is now locked down.)

 27th was evacuated to Beijing.

 31st train to Hong Kong, just in time – border restrictions increasing.

(HK is divided: protests as it were on hold but coronavirus highly politicised.)

 13.02.2020 lectured on power-sharing for newly elected district councillors.

 20th launched in the Foreign Correspondents’ Club for the HK Democracy

 Foundation.

 26th flew – Covid-19, surface travel now no good – to Kuala Lumpur.

(Malaysia is in crisis: parliament is ‘trying’ to form a government, as is Ireland. Eventually, they get a coalition of 5 parties, 3 of which are themselves coalitions of 3 each, 1 of which similar to the DUP, is extremist, Islamic, plus 1 independent, and **all for a majority of just one MP**! Standby for chaos, votes of confidence etc., when parliament reconvenes… postponed, Johnson-like, till May.)

 15.03.2020 hosted his 11th launch, in Kuala Lumpur’s Gerakbudaya Bookshop.

 18th flew home to two-weeks voluntary self-isolation on a farm in Co. Wicklow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Binary voting divides & binary-majority rule may cause either chaos in Ireland, HK, Malaysia, (pretty well) everywhere, or at worst, violence, as in NI, the Balkans etc.. Thirdly, allowing individuals to be all-powerful presidents or PMs – Trump etc. – is bad for the environment… and not very democratic!

The world’s biggest problems – coronavirus and climate change – require coalitions and consensus… and all-party coalitions of national unity. So no majority voting in elections (like those in North Korea), and no majority voting in decision-making! Voting, in decision-making and not just in elections, should be preferential. Governance should be not [binary-] but preferential-majority rule.

Peter Emerson

Director, the de Borda Institute

[www.deborda.org](http://www.deborda.org)

36 Ballysillan Road, Belfast BT14 7QQ

+44-(0)7837717979