

**PLU6909 – The Frontiers of Participatory Democracy : Innovations and Practices
CERIUM-Participedia Summer School**

June 12-17, 2017

Preliminary Syllabus

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Approaches and objectives

A variety of new practices and innovations in participation, deliberation and consultation that are being developed by governments, social movements and citizens throughout the world. The goals of these “participatory democratic innovations” include—among others—deepening citizen engagement and affecting a multitude of political, economic and social issues.

The summer school, developed in partnership with the network of academics and practitioners associated to the Participedia project, will focus on defining the contours of these participatory practices via an examination of their underlying language, premises and effects. Students will undertake a simultaneous exploration of theoretical tools and practical experiences as they reflect on the boundaries of participatory democracy, focusing on both its institutional forms and its more informal practices.

Attendance

The course will take place from June 12 to 17 inclusively, and students are expected to attend all activities of the summer class.

Students who get credits (1,5 or 3 credits) for the course should also attend a mandatory information session on Friday, June 9, from 4-6

Evaluation

All papers should be submitted through Studium in a word or a pdf format, before 11:59pm on the due date. Late papers will be penalized (-10% per day).

The evaluation for the 3-credits summer school comprises three main elements :

- 1) Two 5 pages *critical reading essays* (20% x 2) of 5 pages each. The essays are due on Friday, June 30. Students can write an essay on the readings and choose between three themes :
 - a) Participatory Democracy in Theory
Readings : Polletta (2016), Fung (2006), Warren (2009), Fung (2015)
 - b) Participatory Budgeting in the World
Readings : dos Santos (1998), Romao et al. (2012), Baiocchi & Lerner (2007), Ganuza & Baiocchi (2012).
 - c) Informal Participation
Readings : Van Deth (2014), Haenfler et al. (2012) + 2 more
- 2) A 12-15 pages *research paper* on participatory innovations (40%), due on July 30th, which uses the theoretical tools seen in class to analyse a particular case study or a participatory method. The best papers will be edited and posted on Participedia.net, so you can write a case that is already on the site but incomplete, or create a new entry. All the information necessary to write a *Participedia* case should be available in the paper (ref. tutorial on June 9).
- 3) Active participation (20%). The course is designed to be participatory, and has several practicums for which students' participation is key. Students are expected to have done the assigned readings before class, to participate to the discussions with the presenters, and to actively participate in the practicums designed for the course.

For the 1.5 credits class, evaluation constitutes of the following :

- 1) One 5 pages *critical reading essay* (30%) of 5 pages each. Students have to write their essay on the selected readings for the theme « Participatory democracy in Theory ». The essays are due on Friday, June 30.

- 2) A *Participedia* case (50%), due on July 30th, which documents a particular case study or a participatory method. The best papers will be edited and posted on Participedia.net, so you can write a case that is already on the site but incomplete, or create a new entry. It can be one of the initiatives we visited on our tour. All the information necessary to write a *Participedia* case should be available in the paper (ref. tutorial on June 9).
- 3) Active participation (20%). The course is designed to be participatory, and has several practicums for which students' participation is key. Students are expected to have done the assigned readings before class, to participate to the discussions with the presenters, and to actively participate in the practicums designed for the course.

Readings

All the readings are mandatory. We expect that students will have read the assigned articles and chapters before the start of the summer school in order for them to be able to actively participate in the discussions and workshops.

Readings will be made available to all people registered in the summer school through our StudiUm site, the Université de Montréal online platform.

Schedule & Readings

Friday, June 9 FOR CREDITED STUDENTS ONLY

4pm – 6 pm

Preparation session

Françoise Montambeault, Political Science

Presentation of the syllabus and the objectives of the course. Tutorial on Participedia.net.

Monday June 12

9am –12am

Introduction

Françoise Montambeault, Political Science, Université de Montréal

Reading

- Poletta, Francesca. 2016. « Participatory Enthusiasms : A Recent History of Citizen Engagement Initiatives », *Journal of Civil Society* 12(3), p. 231-246.

What Can Participatory Democracy Mean Today?

Mark Warren, Political Science, University of British Columbia

The number of democratic countries has increased dramatically over the last sixty or so years, contributing enormously to basic human welfare. As democracy has spread, however, democratic expectations have diminished, from the view that democracy means equal chances to influence collective judgments to the sparse view that democracy exists wherever there is a universal franchise with institutionalized opposition. It is often said that the progressive view that democracy ought to involve broad participation by an engaged citizenry must give way to limitations imposed by the scale, complexity, differentiation, and pluralism of modern societies. This presentation argues, however, that the political landscape is now more favorable to participatory ideals than in the recent past. But to capitalize on the possibilities, progressive democrats will need to rethink what democratic participation can mean today within large scale, complex societies. The presentation discusses eight guidelines for a participatory democratic theory that would rise to the challenges.

Readings

- Warren, Mark. 2009. « Governance-driven Democratization », *Critical Policy Studies* 3(1), 3-13.
- Fung, Archon. 2006. « Varieties of Participation in Complex Governance », *Public Administration Review*, p. 66-75.

1:30pm-3pm

The Potential and Limits of Citizenship through Consumer Action

Dietlind Stolle, McGill University

Many advanced democracies are facing difficult challenges. Climate change, environmental disasters, immigration and refugee crises, rising levels of social and political inequality and recent threats to democratic governance have all posed new demands on governments and international organisations. Governments are in part unable or unwilling to address these problems successfully; whereas international organisations are often seen as not having sufficient mandates. In this era of traditional political responsibility collapse, we observe that some citizens take over responsibility and thus take their contributions to solving these tremendous political issues into their own hands. They thereby circumvent classic political channels in order to address some of the sources of these problems directly. More specifically, citizens often use their consumer power to put leverage on corporate and societal actors and they use “do-it-yourself” methods to take a more protective approach to their consumption practices. What are the consequences of citizenship that is at least in part lived through the role of consumers and every day practices? Who is left out? Which problems can be addressed and which problems are unaccounted? We will examine these issues in a journey through comparative political consumerism research. We will also discuss some of the unsolved questions in this area of research that links politics, markets and citizens.

Readings

- Stolle, Dietlind and Michele Micheletti. 2013. “Reconfiguring Political Participation: The Rise of Individualized Political Responsibility Taking,” chapter 2 in *Political Consumerism—Globalized Responsibility Taking*, by Dietlind Stolle and Michele Micheletti. Cambridge University Press.
- Dietlind Stolle, [Marc Hooghe](#), and Michele Micheletti. 2005. "Politics in the Super-Market - Political Consumerism as a Form of Political Participation." *International Political Science Review* 26(3), p. 245-269.

3pm-4:30pm

Public Consultations : The Montreal Model

Elise Naud, Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM)

Tuesday June 13

9am-12am

Frameworks for Bringing an ‘Equity Lens’ to the Design and Evaluation of Public Participation

Patrick L. Scully, Participedia

Martha McCoy, Everyday Democracy

This session will be grounded in the intersection of three of the biggest challenges facing organizers and researchers of public participation: (1) method and process design choices; (2) process and impact evaluation; and (3) tensions and trade-offs among equity, equality, and other aims of public participation. We will begin by introducing analytic frameworks for determining which types of

participatory designs work best for specific problems and issues, for specific goals, under specific circumstances. Students will have the chance to consider and analyze a range of public participation cases using those frameworks. Lastly, we will explore strategies, techniques, and tools for evaluating the quality and efficacy of public participation. Students will engage in an exercise in which they begin to design public participation initiatives that place a high priority on engaging marginalized groups in deliberative forms of public participation.

Readings

- Fung, Archon. 2015. Putting the Public back into Governance: The Challenges of Citizen Participation and Its Future. *Public Administration Review* 75: 513-22.
- Nabatchi, Tina. 2012. *A Manager's Guide to Evaluating Citizen Participation*. Washington, DC: IBM Center for the Business of Government.
- Smith, Graham. 2009. Studying democratic innovations: an analytical framework. In *Democratic Innovations* (pp. 8-29). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

1:30pm-4:30pm

Citizens Assemblies and the Power of Deliberation

Jonathan Rose, Political Science, Queen's University

This presentation will focus on the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform but outline the conditions needed for this kind of in-depth, deliberative experiment. The presentation will discuss its origins, successes and failures. It will also explore other citizens assemblies and what they have in common. While different in many ways, there are similarities that relate to random selection, significant attention to learning, consultation with fellow citizens and deliberation based on values instead of interests. In order to be successful, citizens' assemblies need agency, recognition and time but more fundamentally, citizens assemblies demonstrate the capacity of citizens for democratic fitness.

Readings :

- Pal, Michael. 2012. « The Promise and Limits of Citizens' Assemblies : Deliberation, Institutions and the Law of Democracy », *Queen's Law Journal* 38(1), p. 259-284.
- Rose, Jonathan. 2007. « The Ontario Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform », *Canadian Parliamentary Review*, 30(3), p. 9-16.

Organizing Citizens' Assemblies in Canada

(TBA)

Wednesday June 14

9am-12pm

Participatory Budgeting : The Brazilian Experience

Wagner Romao, Political Science, UNICAMP

The Brazilian Participatory Budgeting experience remains to this day one of the pioneering and most cited participatory innovation. Focusing on some empirical experiences while replacing them within the Brazilian political and institutional contexts, this presentation will offer a assessment of the PB experience in Brazil. The conference will illustrate the organizational diversity of the experiences and their impacts on the profile of the participants using research done in the metropolitan region of São Paulo. Some of the difficulties of the participatory PB model in the current Brazilian context will also be considered. Finally, the conference will be the occasion to outline the current situation of PB and other initiatives in institutional participation in the country.

Readings :

- Santos, B. S. 1998. Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre: toward a redistributive democracy. *Politics and Society*, 26 (4): 461-510.
- Leubolt, B.; Romão, W.; Becker, J. ; Novy, A. 2012. Re-evaluating participatory governance in Brazil. In: Barry Cannon and Peadar Kirby (Orgs.). *Civil society and the state in left-led Latin America: challenges and limitations to democratization*. London / New York: Zed Books , p. 78-93.

Moving Beyond Brazil : PB Around the World

Shari Davis, The Participatory Budgeting Project

Participatory budgeting is a tool that is used all over the world to empower community members through an authentic democratic process. Learn how PB is practiced in North America and in different parts of the world in conditions like large urban communities, rural communities, and with unique funding streams. There are many possibilities in terms of how PB can be applied to a budget to allow for community voice to be heard. The Participatory Budgeting Project will share lessons learned, opportunities for growth and offer a deeper dive into a discussion on participatory budgeting.

Readings :

- Baiocchi, Gianpaolo & Josh Lerner. 2007. « Can Participatory Budgeting Work in the United States? », *The Good Society* 16(1), p. 8-13.
- Ganuza, Ernesto & Gianpaolo Baiocchi. 2012. « The Power of Ambiguity : How PB Travels the Globe », *Journal of Public Deliberation* 8(2).

1:30pm-3pm

Making Participatory Budgeting Work in Canada

Tristan Bougie, Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal

Participatory budget, democratic process where citizen allocate part of the public budget to projects proposed by the community, has experienced a rapid growth in North American cities, since 2010. These democratic processes are a mean to transform our local government such as cities based on the collective intelligence of the population and by adopting a logic of collaboration

between civil society and stakeholder and elected officials in a new mode of governance and leadership in cities. The objective of the communication is to discuss different dimensions of a Participatory Budget (PB) process, conditions for successful implementation of a PB and the role that local governments can play. The aim of the session is to discuss financial, participatory, territorial and governance dimensions of these processes. We will also focus on some strategies to mobilize: civil society organizations, stakeholders, general public, the political class and the administrative and technical apparatus at the stage of implementation of the process.

The Montreal Urban Ecology Centre has accompanied the city of Saint-Basile-le-Grand in one of the first participatory budget processes in the Montreal region. The MUEC works to implement such democratic processes by training, informing influencing elected officials, civil society groups and professionals.

3pm-4:30pm

Workshop: Design Thinking + Participation

Jesi Carson, Participedia (with Patrick L. Scully and Paolo Spada)

This hands-on workshop will introduce students to the “Nerd Jam” process, a method of engagement based on principles of design thinking that can be applied to both formal and informal participatory processes. Design thinking represents a toolkit for generating ideas and a flexible process that can be applied to any public problem. Principles of design thinking include empathy, collaboration, experimentation, and the ability to understand and navigate complex systems. When the line between design engagement and political engagement is blurred, “big issues” affecting civic life can be approached as design challenges that employ a human-centered approach. One example of this approach can be seen in the work of the Design Nerds, a non-profit society whose mission is to engage citizens in the design process, not only to generate ideas, but also to get involved in the implementation of creative solutions to the issues that are most important to them.

Thursday, June 15

9am-10:30am

New Avenues for Innovation in Public Participation

Matt Leighninger, Public Agenda

In the last few years, we have seen the maturation of civic technology, greater shared learning about participation in the Global South and North, increased recognition of the limits of temporary engagement, and the trauma of the Trump Election. A core set of factors have driven innovation in participation in the 21st Century – where will they lead us next? How should participation researchers and practitioners respond? Are we using the right terminology to describe our work and goals? Are there new opportunities to scale engagement? How do we help people envision and achieve the democracies they want? This presentation will propose some answers and invite questions, challenges, additions, and discussion.

Readings

- Leighninger, Matt. 2010. « What we are Talking About When we Talk About the Civic Field? (and why we should clarify what we mean? », *Journal of Public Deliberation* 10(1).

- Leighninger, Matt. 2016. *Transforming Governance : How can Technology Help Reshape Democracy?*, Research Briefing.

10:30am-12pm

Multichannel Participation

Paolo Spada, Empatia

TBA

1:30pm-4:30pm

Practicum - Learning from Failure: EMPAVILLE

Paolo Spada and Michelangelo Secchi, Empatia

One of the main problems of designing public participation is the risk of implementing untested solutions in the wild. Empaville is a user-testing platform that simulates different use case scenarios of public participation and allows the participants to experiment the advantages and disadvantages of different design choices in a safe environment. We will deploy a version of Empaville that simulates a modern hybrid participatory budgeting process. This process has district level face-to-face deliberation in the ideation phase followed by multichannel voting that includes both face-to-face voting in digital kiosks and remote voting via mobile phone and the web. Participants will be asked to role-play a persona with its own objectives (e.g.; safety in the neighborhood) and behavioral traits (e.g.; collaborative, contrarian). This instance of the game will explore the impact of negative voting, a design choice that numerous PB are now implementing, and the ethics of data visualization.

Friday, June 16

9am-12pm

Creative Methods for Public Engagement

Joanna Ashworth, Faculty of Environment, Simon Fraser University

This session will look at how art-full methods draw citizens together to explore their interests, learn about their shared goals and articulate their preferred futures. Drawing from her own professional practice and from traditions in arts-infused community engagement, Joanna will highlight selected cases: a watershed lantern festival, a futures scenario building process, and the creation of a public safety strategy. These cases of cultural experimentation reveal possibilities for new relationships, understanding, cross-pollination of ideas and plans for action.

A Case Study: Public Policy Collage

Tara Mahoney, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University

The case of the Creative Publics Lab (housed at the SFU School of Communications) is explored, a Lab that brings together post-secondary students with social sector organizations to develop and experiment with new forms of political participation that foreground art and media as tools for dialogue and community organizing. The praxis framework of the lab is rooted in experiential learning that aims to develop students' competencies in media-based organizing, art/design activism and strategic political communication. In this portion of the workshop, participants will participate in a case study that uses drawing and collage to foster dialogue around public policy issues by

connecting the personal to the political. This approach to political participation is rooted in the concept of micro-utopias, temporary manifestation of an ideal civic culture where participants test an aspirational political concept, process or social interaction. As a method for participation, micro-utopias create experiences that shift taken-for-granted societal expectations by expanding 'realms of the possible' through socially-engaged art practice.

1:30pm-4:30pm

The Contours of Informal Participation : A Dialogue

Laurence Bherer, Université de Montréal

Bettina von Lieres, University of Toronto

This session will take the form of a dialog between two scholars who are interested by informal forms of participation and tactics, alternative forms of political action, which may be little or not at all coordinated, more or less ad hoc, and focused on specific issues outside the realm of institutions and organizations. The objective of this lecture is to dialog is to discuss the questions raised by this type of political action. How do we define informal political participation? How is it situated in relation to other forms of engagement?

Laurence Bherer will draw her reflection from targeted citizen actions in urban spaces, "dumpster diving" or responsible consumption movements are examples of these informal modes of participation. These informal modes of participation have been termed "individual collective action": that is, they are individualized actions that combine both personal and social transformations. They are not isolated acts, but rather a diffuse and highly decentralized movement. This movement can potentially involve quite a large number of people who are adapting their daily practices, the political aspect of which is not evident. Bettina von Lieres will reflect on emerging forms informal public participation in the African context. She will draw from her current research on informal tactics of networking and mobilization by marginalized communities in South Africa, in particular tactical choices around 'non-participation' in formal participatory governance institutions. More broadly, she will discuss the efficacy of informal participation in political contexts with significant degrees of exclusion, repression and inequality. Her research foregrounds the crucial role of informal political representatives or "mediators" in generating democratic and inclusive forms of public participation for marginalized groups.

Readings

- Van Deth, J. W. (2014). A conceptual map of political participation. *Acta Politica*, 49(3), p. 349-367.
- Haenfler, R., Johnson, B., & Jones, E. (2012). Lifestyle movements: Exploring the intersection of lifestyle and social movements. *Social Movement Studies*, 11(1), p. 1-20.

Saturday, June 17

Meeting point: TBA, we will be meeting out of campus for the day

9am-10am

Participatory Urbanism in Practice

Tristan Bougie, Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal

10am-15pm

Citizen-based Initiatives : Field Visits

(TBA)

3pm-4:30pm

Conclusion : Participation for Democracy and Inclusion?

Françoise Montambeault, Université de Montréal