SYMPOSIUM
21-22 July 2014
Developing expertise in the design of participatory tools:
Professionalization and diversification of the public participation field

Symposium to take place during the annual World Congress of the
International Political Science Association (IPSA)
19-24 July 2014 in Montreal

Organized by Laurence Bherer (Université de Montréal), Mario Gauthier (Université du Québec en Outaouais), Alice Mazeaud (Université de La Rochelle), Magalie Nonjon (Université d’Avignon), Louis Simard (Université d’Ottawa) in collaboration with the Institut du Nouveau Monde (www.inm.qc.ca)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM
January 2014

21 JULY
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
PANEL 1: Professionalization of participation: Institution, identity and practices
Outline: 15 minutes per paper, 10 minutes discussant, 20 minutes open discussion

Chair: David Kahane (TBC)
Discussant: Geneviève Fuji-Johnson (TBC)

Papers:
- Julia Hahn (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology - KIT, Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis - ITAS), “Professional 'consensusing': Citizens' dialogue on future technologies in the context of democratic decision-making”
- Alice Mazeaud (Université de la Rochelle) and Magali Nonjon (Université d’Avignon), “The contribution of ‘participation professionals’ to the French participatory shift”
- Alejandro Esguerra (Freie Universität Berlin) and Nina Amelung (Technische Universität Berlin), “The presence and absence of public professionals in negotiating participation processes in global diversity politics”
- Caroline W. Lee (Lafayette College), “Walking the talk: The performance of authenticity in public participation work”

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.
**PANEL 2: Public autonomous organizations dedicated to public participation: Autonomy for what end?**
Outline: 15 minutes per paper, 10 minutes discussant, 20 minutes open discussion

Chair: Magali Nonjon
Discussant: Caroline Lee (TBC)

Papers:
- Julien O'Miel (Université Nord de France), “Political construction of participation regulation by independent authorities: The cases of the Regional Authority for Public Debate in Nord/Pas-de-Calais (France) and the Regional Authority for Participation in Tuscany (Italy)”
- Loïc Blondiaux (Université Paris 1), Jean-Michel Fourniau (National research group on Participatory Democracy and Public Participation in Decision-Making) and Laurence Monnoyer-Smith (Université de Technologie de Compiègne), “At a fair distance from ordinary citizens, but close to public sector elites? The sociology of French CNDP moderators and its consequences on public participation management”
- Laurence Bherer (Université de Montréal), Louis Simard (Université d’Ottawa) and Mario Gauthier (Université du Québec en Outaouais), “Autonomy for what end? Comparing autonomous organizations dedicated to public participation”

12:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
LUNCH

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
**ROUND TABLE**
Facilitated by Miriam Fahmy, Director of Research and Publications, Institut du Nouveau Monde

Four practitioners:
- **Simon Burall**, Executive Director of Involve (UK)
- **Carolyn Lukensmeyer**, Executive Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse (USA)
- **Peter MacLeod**, Principal and Co-founder of MASS LBP (Ontario, Canada)
- **Michel Venne**, General Director of the Institut du Nouveau Monde (Québec, Canada)

Four academics:
- **Laurence Bherer**, Université de Montréal
- **Jason Chilvers**, University of East Anglia
- **Geneviève Fuji-Johnson**, Simon Fraser University
- **Caroline W. Lee**, Lafayette College

**Part 1 - Four public participation practitioners (60 min)**
_In this first segment, participants will be introduced and various practices will be outlined for those in attendance, before delving into the conference’s main issues. We will invite four_
researchers to provide a portrait of four practitioners so as to highlight elements in common or differences in their respective approaches. The practitioners will have an opportunity to complete the portrait by specifying how their practice has evolved over the past few years.

- Each researcher presents a practitioner's approach in 5 minutes according to criteria to be defined, including mission, organizational structure, types of activities, typical methodological approach, business model, etc. (20 min)
- The facilitator will invite the four practitioners to complete each researcher’s presentation by providing more details about their career path and the way their practice has evolved over the past 10 to 20 years. (40 min)

Part 2 - Organizing public participation: Opportunities and challenges of professionalization for the practice (120 min)

This second segment delves into the heart of the matter: the professionalization and diversification of the field of public participation. Through round table discussions and questions alternately directed to researchers and practitioners, we will seek to explore the challenges and opportunities presented by the professionalization and diversification of public participation, thereby shedding light on the relationship between so-called ‘private’ and ‘public’ practices.

- Question to practitioners: Since PP ultimately aims to influence public affairs, would it not be preferable to train state employees so that they can develop their own expertise in PP internally? Would it be threatening to your survival? Do you see limits to PP being the sole preserve of state employees? (20 min)
- Researchers’ reactions (10 min)
- Questions for practitioners: Should we fear the possible misuse of PP standards by professional "consultants" to meet their clients’ needs or by public servants constrained by political timetables? Might excesses occur? (20 min)
- Researchers’ reactions (10 min)
- A question for everyone: At the end of the day, how do private and public practices actually coexist and influence each other and what are the challenges and opportunities arising from this relational configuration? (30 min)
- Audience questions (30 min)

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Break

4:45 p.m. – 18:15 p.m.
PANEL 3: Diffusion of public participation practices: collaboration, partnership and negotiation

Outline: 15 minutes per paper, 10 minutes discussant, 20 minutes open discussion

Chair: Alice Mazeaud (TBC)
Discussant: Louis Simard (TBC)
Papers:
Laurence Bherer, Alice Mazeaud, Magalie Nonjon, Mario Gauthier, Louis Simard, “Professionalization of the Public Participation Field: Trends and Challenges”

David Kahane (University of Alberta), “Public administrators, process professionals, and deliberative democracy: Negotiating participatory processes and their influence”

Giovanni Allegretti (Coimbra University), “Transforming the territory through transforming citizenship: Transforming participatory budgeting practices in Portugal”

Marie-Andrée Roy (Institut Universitaire Européen), “From Porto Alegre to Washington, or the impact of international development organizations on empowerment within the framework of participatory budgets in Latin America”

21 JULY
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
ROUND TABLE
Organized and facilitated by the Institut du Nouveau Monde
Same 8 people as Part 1 & 2

Part 3 - Interactions among participation professionals and researchers
This last segment will take advantage of face-to-face encounters between researchers and practitioners to probe more deeply into questions related to the challenges and opportunities presented by their collaboration with a view to advancing knowledge and practices.

• Question to practitioners: To what degree are your endeavours influenced by the work of researchers/academics? Collaboration with the world of research has been most useful as regards what aspects of your work? What was your most memorable collaboration experience? (20 min)
• Question to researchers: What are, for you, the challenges and opportunities presented by collaboration with practitioners, and what was your most memorable collaboration experience? (20 min)
• Question to practitioners: What do you need in order to increase the impact of your activities? (20 min)
• Question to all: If you were granted funding for a project of your choice with the only constraint being that it relies on continuous collaboration between practitioners and researchers, from project planning to evaluation, what would you want to work on? (20 min)
• Audience questions (20 min)
• Closing remark directed to each speaker: What will you take away from our exchanges during this round table discussion? (20 min)

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
PANEL 4: Developing and framing participatory design: Who is in charge?
Outline: 15 minutes per paper, 10 minutes discussant, 20 minutes open discussion
Chair: Simon Burall, Executive Director of Involve (UK)
Discussant: Giovanni Allegreti (TBC)

Papers:

- Geneviève Fuji-Johnson (Simon Fraser University), “Democracy paradox and contextual complexity: Developing expertise in the design of participatory tools”
- Nicole Swerhun (Swerhun Facilitation & Decision Support), TBC
- Alma Kolleck (Goethe University Frankfurt), “Designing online participation tools: Who decides?”
- Rodolpho Lewanski (University of Bologna) and Stefania Ravazzi (University of Turin), “Designing public participation: Professional, institutional and social pressures in the Italian case”

12:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
LUNCH

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
OPEN SPACE
Chair: Michel Venne, Institut du Nouveau Monde

The symposium’s program was developed on the basis of questions that interest the organizers on a day-to-day basis. They are, however, aware that international guests, practitioners and researchers come with questions of their own. Open Space is an activity that provides symposium participants with a new space for discussion, whether to address questions related to the symposium’s themes, to look at angles other than those proposed in the program, or to delve into questions that have occurred to participants during their participation in the symposium. Within the framework of this activity, practitioners and researchers will be invited to put their concerns on the agenda or to browse among issues raised by other participants and that are of interest to them.

- Short introduction of the purpose by the facilitator: “Open Space is a self-organizing meeting, where several breakout discussions can take place simultaneously. Participants, practitioners and academics will come up with their own ideas of conversation topics around which they would like to exchange with the other participants present. Unless they suggest and host a conversation, participants will move freely among groups, learning and contributing according to their interests.”
- Step 1: Participants form one big circle and the facilitator asks them the following question: “Which conversation would you like to have with the people here present?” (5 min)
- Step 2: Participants willing to host a conversation write their conversation topic on a sheet of paper and post it on the wall. (10 min)
- Step 3: Conversation hosts spread out to different corners of the room. Remaining participants are free to join and stick to the conversation that meets their interest, or they can circulate freely among groups. (60 min)
• Step 4: The facilitator calls everybody back into one big circle and conversation hosts are invited to share the results of their discussion. (15 min)

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Break

3:45 p.m. – 5 p.m.
**PANEL 5: The challenge of public participation for the public servant**
Outline: 15 minutes per paper, 10 minutes discussant, 20 minutes open discussion
Chair: Nina Amelung (TBC)
Discussant: Jean-Michel Fourniau (TBC)

Papers:
- Tyler Shymkiw (Simon Fraser University), “Public/private partnerships for public consultation in Canadian local government: Emerging models of online consultation design and the democratic ideal”
- Maude Benoît (Université Laval and University of Montpellier 1) and Caroline Patsias (Université du Québec à Montréal – UQAM), “Developing expertise in the design of participatory tools: The professionalization and diversification of the public participation field”
- Marie-Hélène Sa Vilas Boas (Université d’Avignon), “From activism to participatory institutions: Public participation professionals in Recife”
- Stefan Busse (University of Münster), “The democratic potential of participatory engineering: The case of participatory budgeting in Germany”

5 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.
**CLOSING**
Closing word from symposium organizers.

This special colloquium is organized by Laurence Bherer (Université de Montréal), Mario Gauthier (Université du Québec en Outaouais), Magali Nonjon (Université d’Avignon), Alice Mazeaud (Université de La Rochelle) and Louis Simard (Université d’Ottawa), in collaboration with the Institut du Nouveau Monde (INM). INM is a Montréal-based organization whose mission is to promote and support citizen participation in democratic life and the renewal of ideas. Since 2003, this organization has been working to inform citizens about key issues, to facilitate ongoing debate on these issues, and to promote the value of the ideas and projects arising from this debate in public opinion and in the eyes of decision makers (in English: http://participedia.net/en/organizations/institut-du-nouveau-monde) (in French: www.inm.qc.ca).