

A Planners' (re)Public

Will citizen dialogues revitalize democracy?

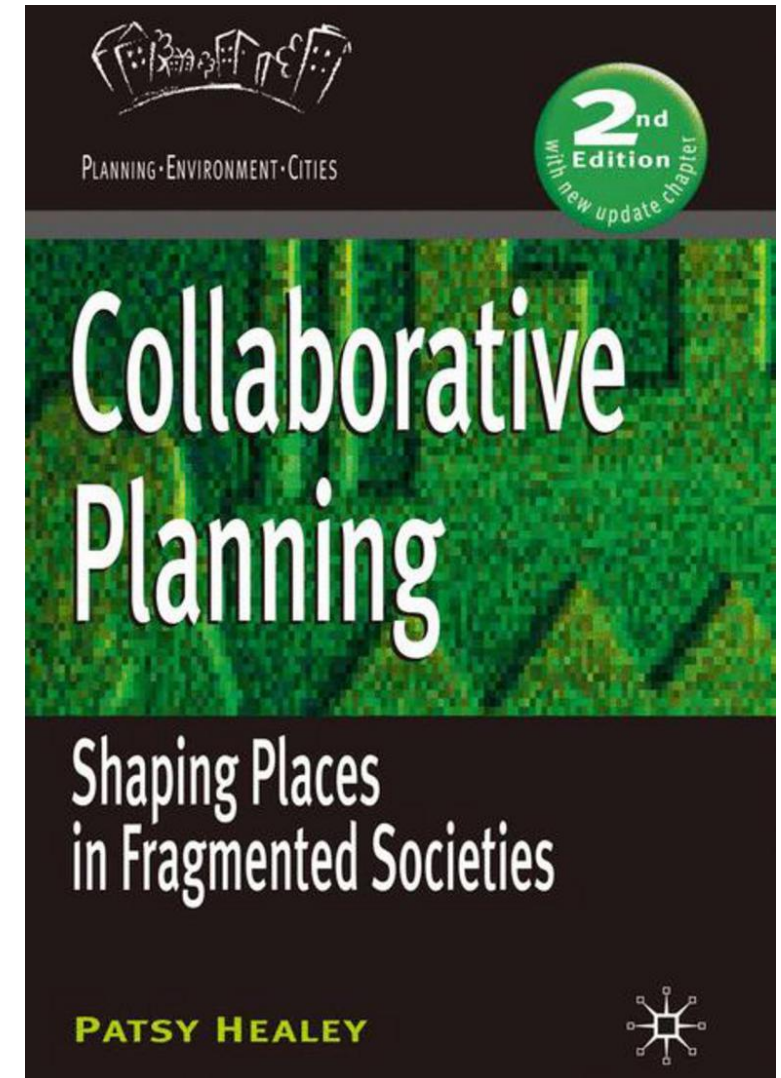
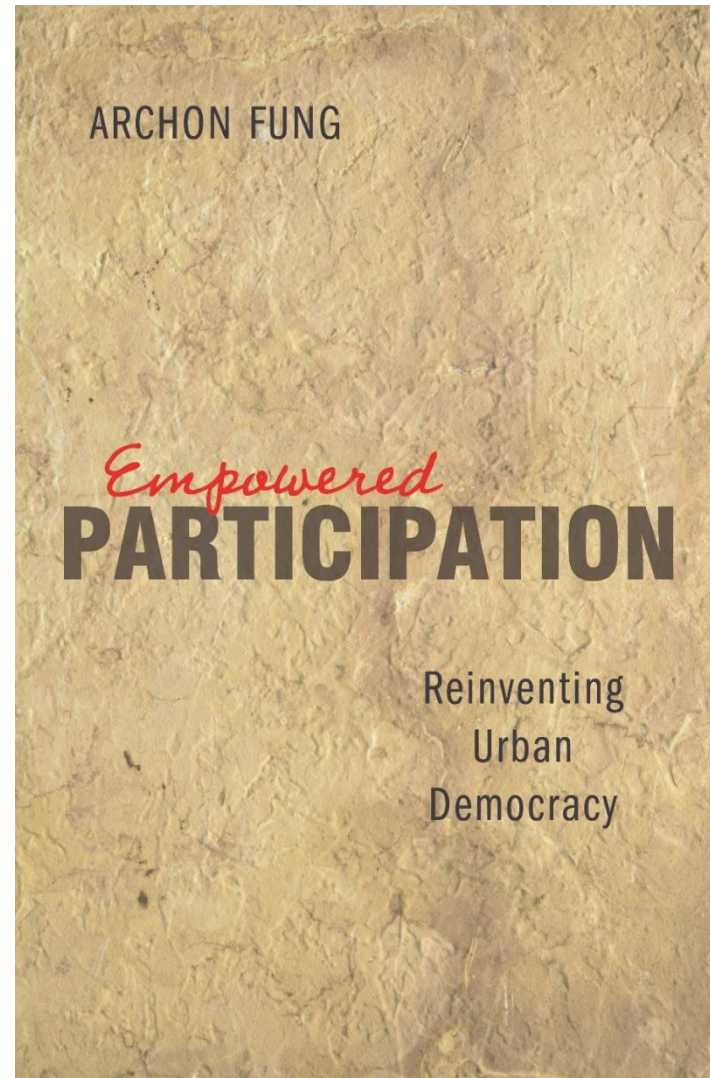
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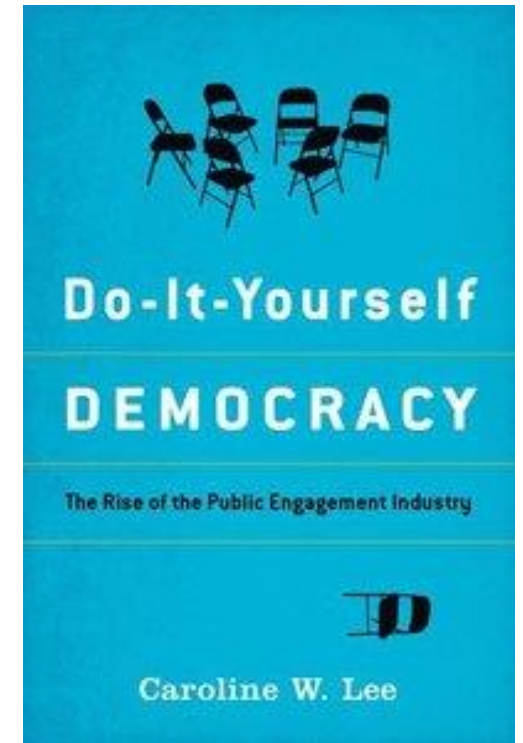
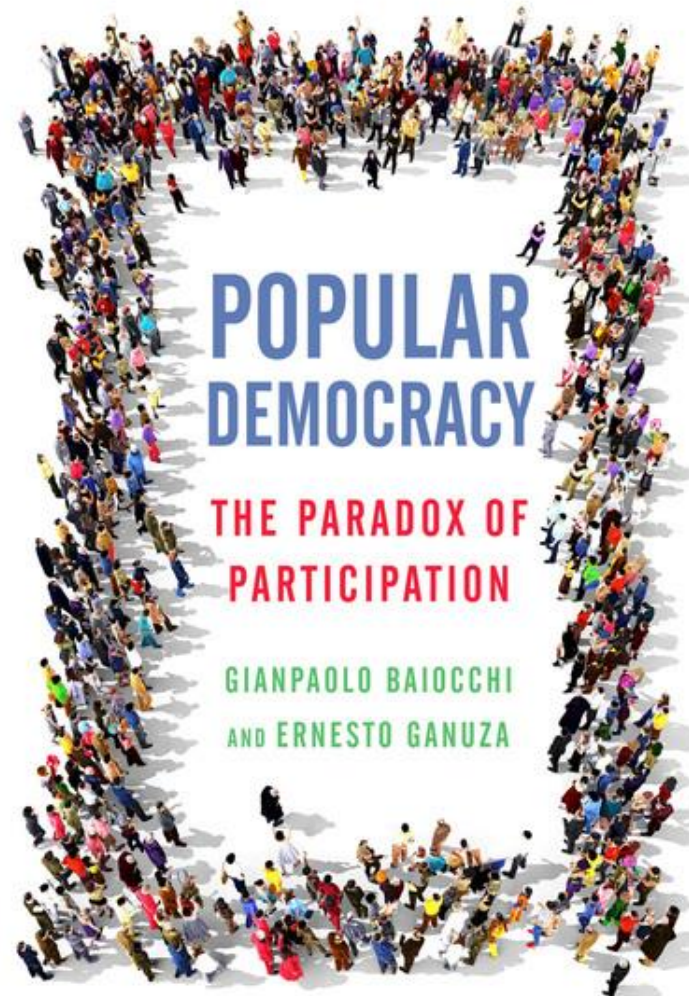
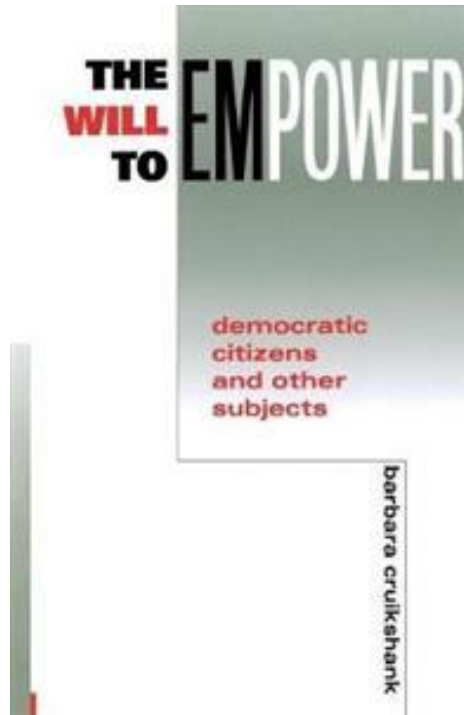
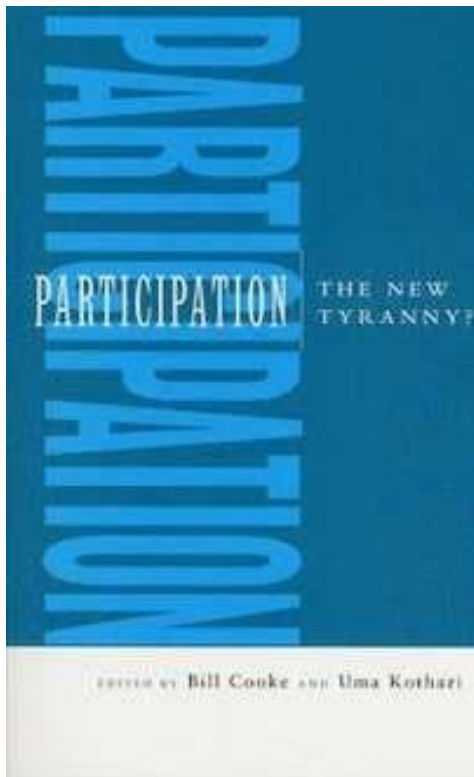
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Citizen participation and dialogue is generally considered a "good"



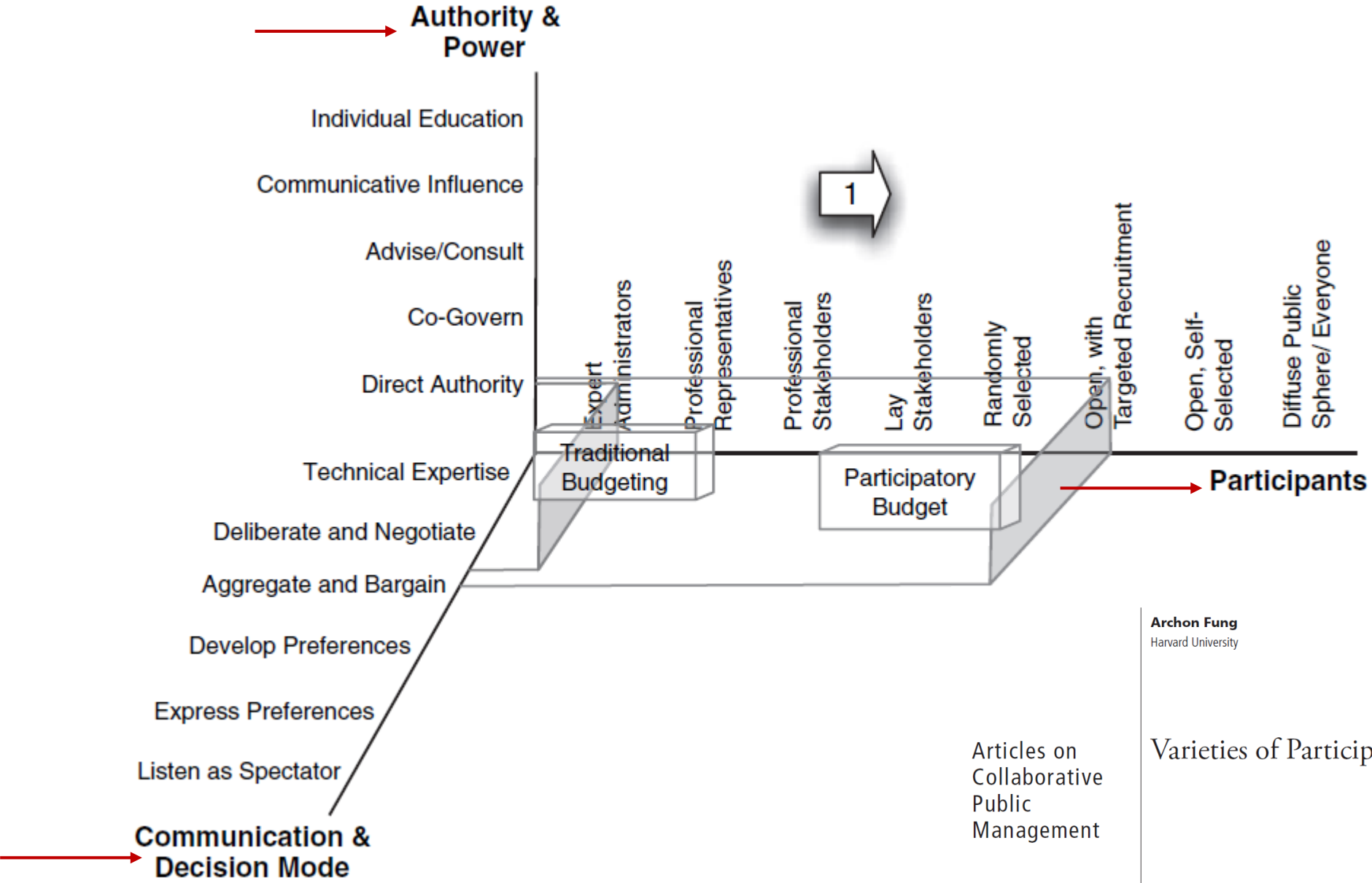
However, research on the “goods” of citizens participation is highly polarized



Understanding the impacts of participation

Research hypothesis: The **organisation** of participatory processes conditions the potential impacts on planning processes, urban development and democracy.

So how are "citizen dialogues" organized?



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Harvard University

Articles on Collaborative Public Management

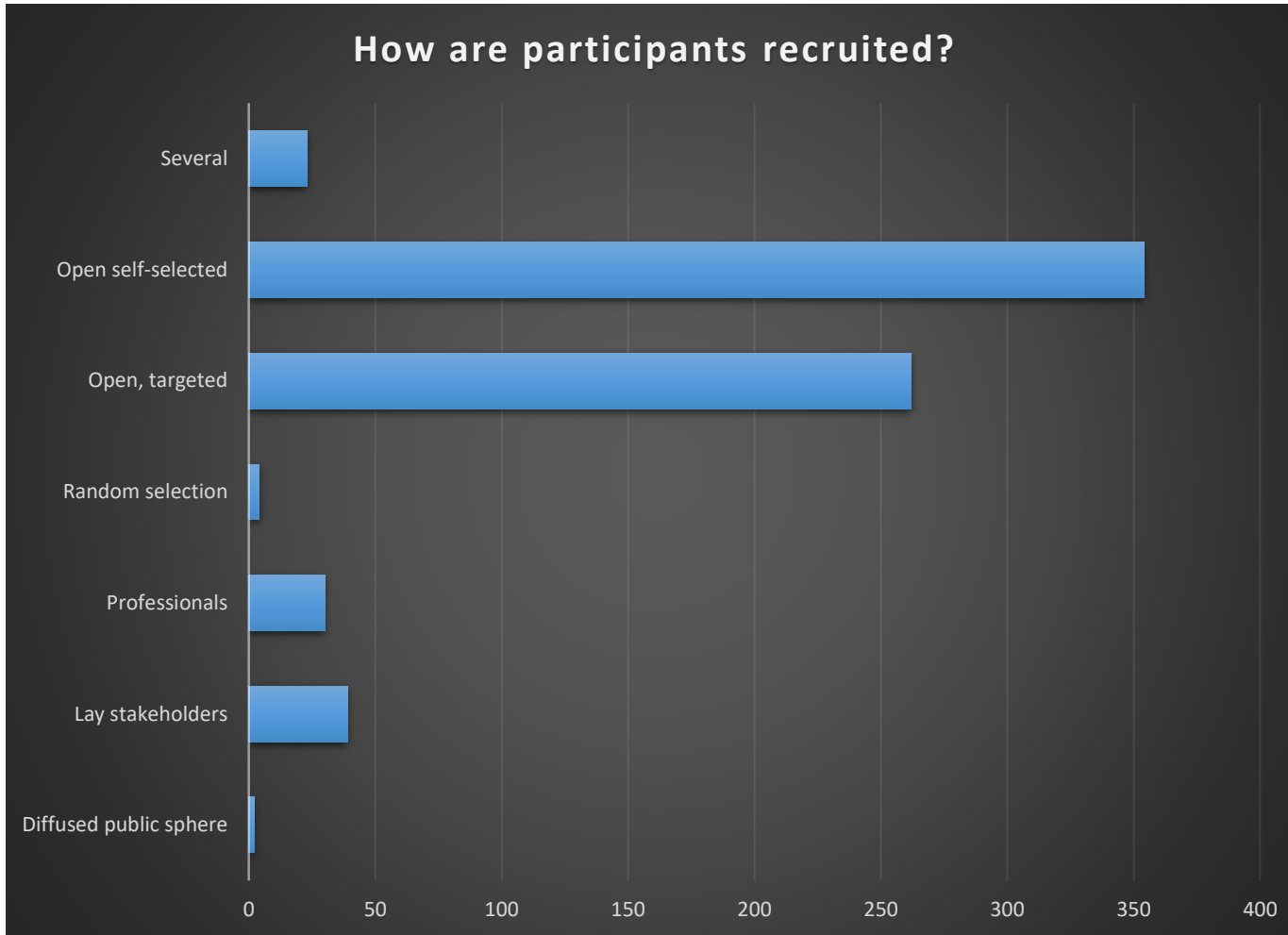
Varieties of Participation in Complex Governance

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The multifaceted challenges of contemporary governance demand a complex account of the ways in which those who are subject to laws and policies should participate in making them. This article develops a framework for

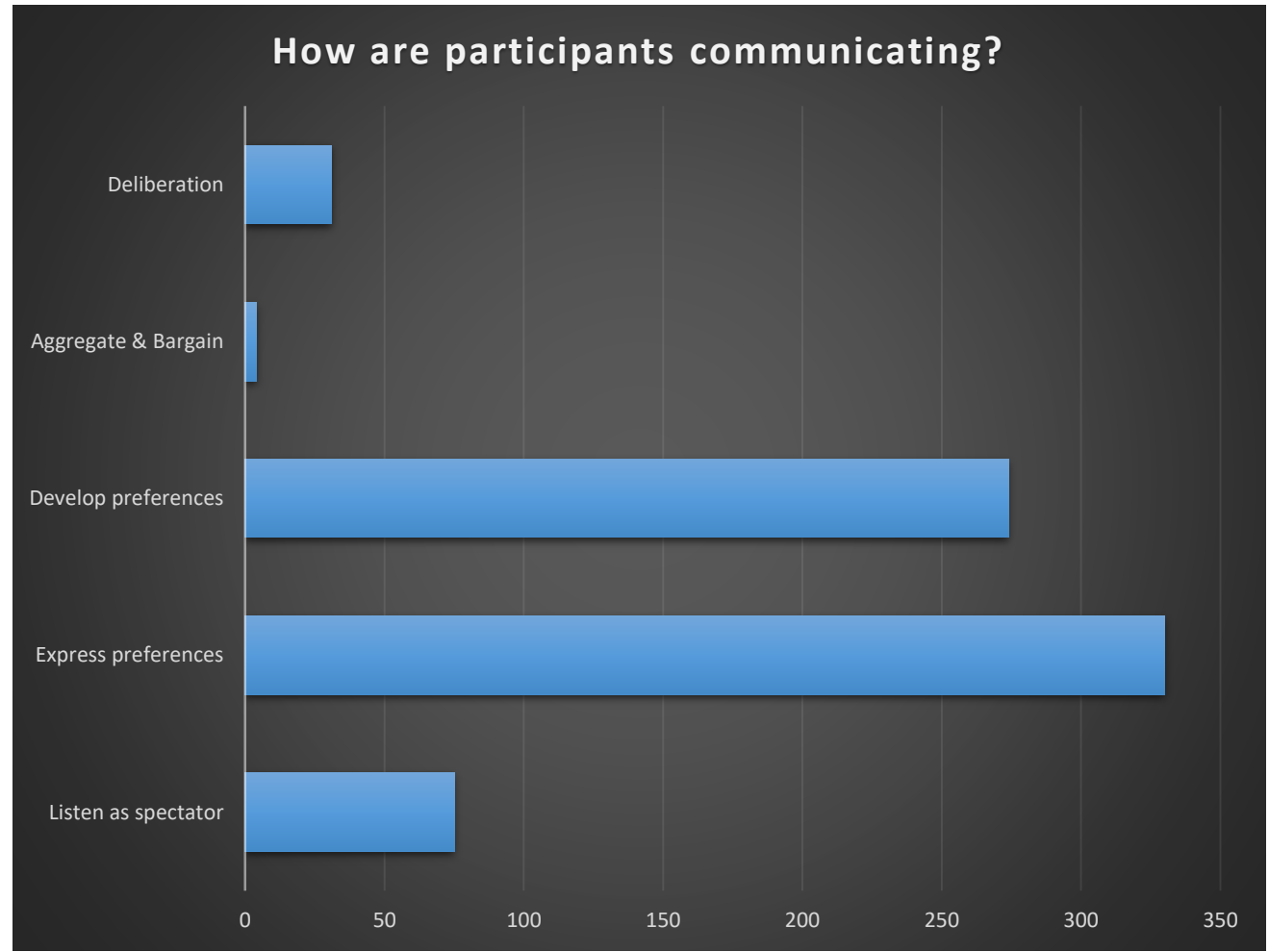
In this article, I develop a framework for understanding a range of institutional possibilities. Such a framework is a necessary—if incomplete—part of the answer to a larger question regarding the amounts and kinds

More
exclusive



- Participants are not "mirroring" the public
- They are representing the self-chosen and those chosen by planners.

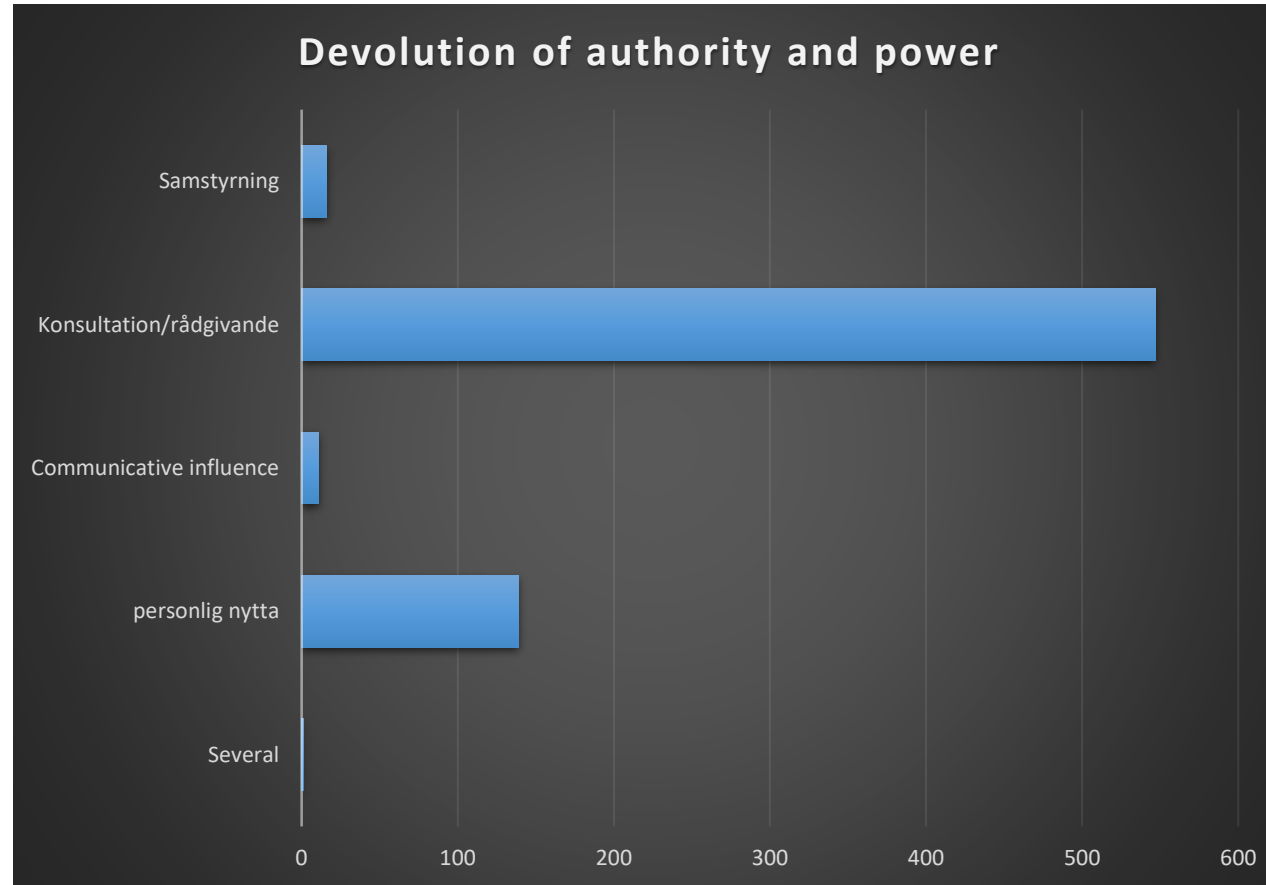
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- Rarely deliberative: agreements produced on the basis of reasoning
- Extraction of preferences

How much authority is devolved?

↑
More
authority



- There is no transparent way of finding out how participation is coupled to the political process.
- Dependent on situation, actors and context.

Participation = the planners' public?

Assumption: the revitalization of democracy depends on the devolution of power to plural actors in order to advance the "publics interests" as opposed to private interests.

+ Outreach efforts keep citizens informed - Have planning ever been this transparent? High values for civic learning and potential democratic development.

- Lack of popular control and non-deliberative processes give public administration power over citizens' preferences and the definition of what the "Publics interest" is or is not.

- The planners construct a peoples' voice (a public) and represent this tactically in the planning process.

- How the planners (re)public advances "the publics interests" depends on situation. No given nor general democratic values in these processes.