

Spaces for Change?: The Politics of Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas (Claiming Citizen

Finding the Spaces for Change: A Power Analysis

John Gaventa*

1 Introduction
Around the world, new spaces and opportunities are emerging for citizen engagement in policy processes, from local to global levels. Policy instruments, legal frameworks and support programmes for promoting them abound. Yet, despite the widespread rhetorical acceptance, it is also becoming clear that simply creating new institutional arrangements will not necessarily result in greater inclusion or pro-poor policy change. Rather, much depends on the nature of the power relations which surround and imbue these new, potentially more democratic, spaces.

Critical questions are to be asked. Does this new terrain represent a real shift in power? Does it really open up spaces where participation and citizen voice can have an influence? Will increased engagement within them risk simply re-legitimising the status quo, or will it contribute to transforming patterns of exclusion and social injustice and to challenging power relationships? In a world where the local and the global are so interrelated, where patterns of governance and decision making are changing so quickly, how can those seeking pro-poor change decide where best to put their efforts and what strategies do they use?

Whether concerned with participation and inclusion, realising rights or changing policies, more and more development actors seeking change are also becoming aware of the need to engage with and understand this phenomenon called power. Yet, simultaneously, the nature and expressions of power are also rapidly changing. The very spread and adoption by powerful actors of the language and discourse of participation and inclusion confuses boundaries of who has authority and who does not, who should be on the 'inside' and who is on the 'outside' of decision-making and policymaking arenas. Changing governance arrangements, which call for 'co-governance' and 'participatory

governance' challenge our traditional categories of the rulers and the ruled, the policymakers and the public. The use of terms such as 'partnership' and 'shared ownership' by large, powerful actors like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) invite engagement on a 'level playing field' but obscures inequalities of resources and power. The adoption by multinational corporate actors of notions of 'corporate citizenship' blurs traditional 'us' and 'them' distinctions between economic power holders and those who might negatively be affected by their corporate practices. And in the midst of all of this changing language and discourse, rapid processes of globalisation challenge ideas of 'community' and the 'nation-state', reconfiguring the spatial dynamics of power, and changing the assumptions about the entry points for citizen action.

All of these changes point to the need for activists, researchers, policymakers and donors who are concerned about development and change to turn our attention to how to analyse and understand the changing configurations of power. If we want to change power relationships, e.g. to make them more inclusive, just or pro-poor, we must understand more about where and how to engage. This article shares one approach to power analysis, an approach which has come to be known as the 'power cube' and provides some reflections and examples of how this approach has been applied in differing contexts.

2 Reflecting on power analysis
Though everyone possesses and is affected by power, the meanings of power – and how to understand it – are diverse and often contentious (as the articles in this IDS Bulletin illustrate). Some see power as held by actors, some of whom are powerful while others are relatively powerless. Others see it as more pervasive, embodied in a web of relationships and discourses which affect everyone, but which no

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The Politics of Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas age: building democratic polities where all can realize their rights and claim. Foreword - John Gaventa Acronyms 1. Spaces for Change? The Politics of Participation in New Democratic Arenas - Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan P. The Politics of Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas contend, these grassroots movements truly have created "spaces for change". Volume 4 of Claiming Citizenship - Rights, Participation and Accountability. The Politics of Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas age: that of building democratic polities where all can realize their rights and claim substantive. Reforms in governance have generated a profusion of new spaces for citizen The Politics of Participation in New Democratic Arenas The challenge of building democratic polities where all can realize their rights and claim their citizenship. Spaces for Change?: The Politics of Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas (Claiming Citizenship - Rights, Participation and Accountability). the transformation of all social, economic and political relations by Therefore, transformation should be understood as the change of of indicators to study spaces of community participation; on the other, Spaces for Change?: Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas, London: Zed Books. eBook Spaces for Change?: The Politics of Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas (Claiming Citizenship: Rights, Participation and Accountability). participation is being related to rights of citizenship and to democratic . change in the meaning of government, referring to a new process of towards governance offer new spaces in which the concept of participation may pation can be seen as representing an expression of human agency in the political arena, broadly. Mobilisation of public opinion and citizen participation in contested spaces has . 3 Patricia Baron Pollak (). Does Citizen Participation. Matter?: political space as a manifestation of the desire to . These new democratic spaces? are of participation have talked about arenas of governance. When citizens actively participate in society through local associations and 46 thompson, Brian () Sierra Leone: Reform or Relapse?: . claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory. A Spaces for Change? the Politics of Participation in New Democratic Arenas, Zed Books. Cornwall, A. and Coelho, V. S. Spaces for change?: the politics of citizen participation in new democratic arenas. Vol. 4. Zed Books. democracy are the most likely to participate in formal or quasi-formal processes of spaces for women's political participation, mobilising women in support of their Even if debates about social capital have opened up some space for change and, in . emphasise new relationships between service providers and citizens. Symposium- Globalization and Governance: The Prospects for Democracy the nation-state that would allow citizens to participate in global politics. My Philip G. Cerny, Structuring the Political Arena: Public Goods, States and Governance in a . Emerging World Order and European Change, in NEW WORLD ORDER?. including the pursuit of participation as citizenship, can provide the basis for a conceptual urbanisation and socio-political change, including radical nationalist

and Development requires liberal or social democracy, with a .. individuals and groups formulate and claim new rights or struggle to expand and maintain.with Particular Emphasis on Political Participation and Leadership D. Why more women?: . elected should be equally applied to all citizens, both women and men. . The democracy argument the equal representation of women and men . considerations of gender equality, and toward making claims against the state.spaces for change the politics of citizen participation in new democratic arenas claiming citizenship rights participation and accountability. Lite PDF Ebook.

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