

DO WE REALLY NEED PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING?



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SINERGI -
SOCIAL
INTEGRATION
THROUGH
URBAN GROWTH
STRATEGIES

SECOND THEMATIC
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2015

CONTEXT – WHAT'S A BETTER PLANNING?



- Planning practice and research
- City civic activism in Aveiro (Amigosd'Avenida)
- PhD – Spatial Planning: Methodologies, Actors and Participation
- Erasmus +Project (2015-2016) Community Participation in Planning (involving Belfast, Milan and Aveiro)
- Spatial Planning Lab (University of Aveiro)
- Ways to do better planning!

THE FUTURE OF PLANNING – TO EXCITE PEOPLE!



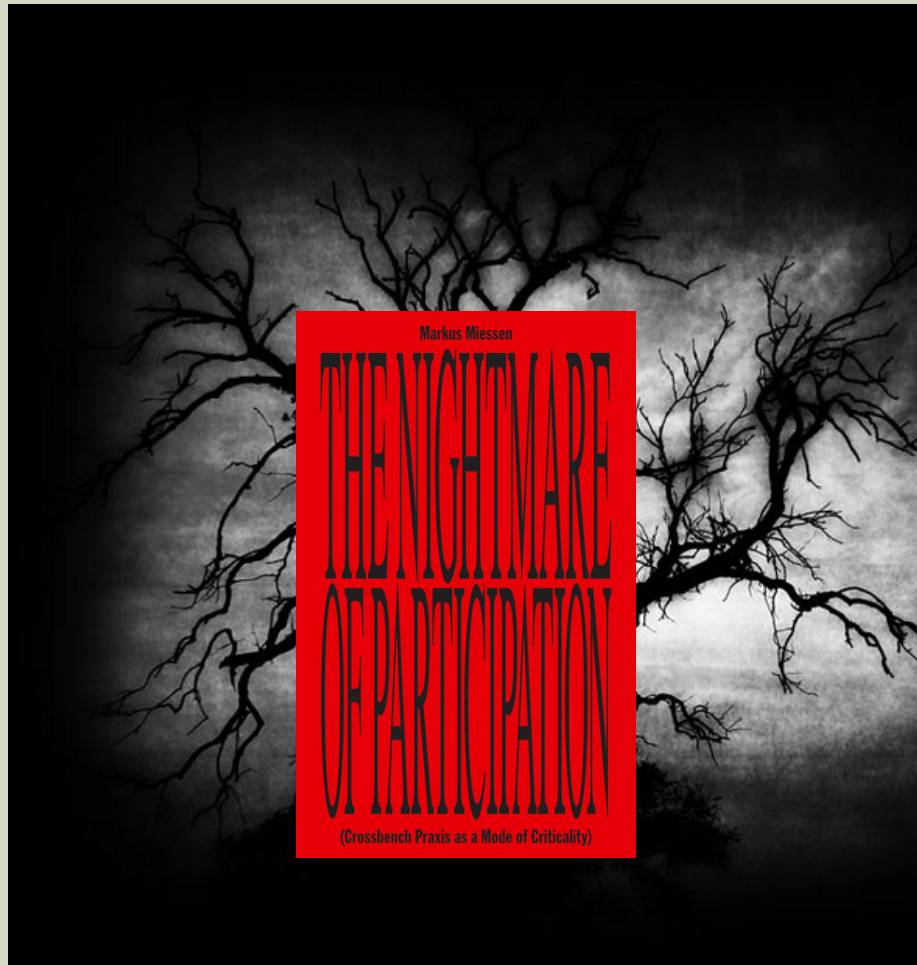
Debates about the future of Spatial Planning:

- Rational vs. Collaborative
- Top-down vs. Bottom-up
- Strategic vs. Tactical
- Growth vs. Degrowth

“We can only make the most of the potential of planning if we find new ways to involve people and adopt radical approaches to improving the quality of life for residents. Planning has to be more relevant, more interesting, more effective and more efficient. It needs a culture change. It needs to raise its game. IT NEEDS TO EXCITE PEOPLE.”

Jonh Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister at Local Government Association (LGA), 2006

NIGHTMARE OF PARTICIPATION!



- Overweight participatory apparatus (institutional structures/media)
- Participation as a tool for political legitimation – buzzword agendas: sustainability (Miessen, 2011)
- Forcing consensus to hide political power struggles (Flyvbjerg, 1998)
- Participatory stage controlled by most powerful actors;
- The problem of the plurality of voices;

NIGHTMARE OF PARTICIPATION!



- Made out of time and high costs (time, financial, human resources);
- Not clear method (who values the contributions);
- Absence of an impact evaluation;
- Increasing NIMBY culture;
- Just a BUZZWORD!
- The end of participation as we know it?

NIGHTMARE OF PARTICIPATION – IN PORTUGAL



- **Municipal Land Use Spatial Plans (since 1990)**
 - Public participation limited just to the discussion of final proposals;
 - Absence of institutional debate (local, regional and national level);
 - No stakeholders involvement... a lost opportunity to legitimate proposals
 - No learning process... no shared vision
 - No planning process!
- **Urban Regeneration Partnerships (2007-2013)**
- **Portugal 2020 (2014-2020) and Sub Regional Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)**

SO, WHY DO WE REALY NEED PARTICIPATION?



REDESCOVER BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATION – focused on strengthening the role of actors in the decision-making process

From

- PUBLIC-> STAKEHOLDER(S)
- TOP-DOWN -> BOTTOM-UP
- THE PUBLIC INTEREST -> PLURAL NEEDS, MOTIVATIONS AND MEANS
- CONSENSUS -> COMMITMENT

STAKEHOLDERS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL

ACTORES PROMOTORES	A1.1- Instituições Políticas
	A1.2 -Técnico-administrativos
ACTOR DETENTOR DO CONHECIMENTO, INFLUÊNCIA OU TUTELA	A2.1- Instituições Políticas supra-nacionais
	A2.2- Técnico-Administrativos intermédios
	A2.7- Fornecedores de Serviços Colectivos
	A2.9- Conhecimento
	A3.1- Tutelas fiscalizadoras
	A3.2- Redes relacionais
	A3.3- Político-partidários
ACTOR EMPREENDEDOR DE ACTIVIDADES	A2.3- Socioculturais
	A2.4- Produtivos-Empreendedores
ACTOR DETENTOR DA PROPRIEDADE E PROMOTOR IMOBILIÁRIO	A2.5- Promotores-investidores
	A2.6- Proprietários imobiliários
	A2.8- Capital financeiro
ACTOR DIFUSOR DE INFORMAÇÃO	A3.4- Comunicação
ACTOR QUE EXPRIME OU É PORTADOR DE NECESSIDADES	A4.1- Actores c/ interesse individual
	A4.1- Actores defensores interesses difusos
	A5.1- Em silêncio
	A5.1- Actor sem direito



A TYPOLOGIE OF STAKEOLDERS IN PLANNING WITH DIFFERENT:

- MEANS (Financial Resources, Knowledge – Scientific, Technical and Grownd, Land, Relational Skills, Productive, Communication)
- MOTIVATIONS (power, collective and individual needs, profit, regulate, inform)
- NEEDS

Formal and informal stakeholders ->

- Self-organization, ‘spontaneous appearance of order or organization, with ‘global order’ and ‘local action’ and distributed over all components (collective/robustness)’ (Heylighen, 2001)
- city civic ‘self organized’ movements, civic initiatives through networks, based on the local communities, out of governemnt control; help to improve citizen participation

TOWARDS?

PARTICIPATION, BEYOND THE BUZZWORD



MORE THAN JUST

- IMPROVEMENT OF A MORE DEMOCRATIC CITY MANAGEMENT THROUGH FACE-TO-FACE DIALOGUE, COMUNICATIVE ACTION

ALSO:

- SOCIAL LEARNING AND INSTITUTIONAL 'CAPACITY BUINDING'
- EMPOWERMENT OF ACTORS
- COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

PARTICIPATION, LIKE EATING SPINACH!



is a little like eating spinach: no one is against it in principle because it is good for you (Arnstein, 1971)

(IN SOME CONDITIONS) CAN ALSO:

- IMPROVES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS;
- CLARIFY DIFFERENT INTERESTS AT STAKE
- STIMULATE COLLECTIVE DECISIONS, TRUST AND COMMITMENT

- INCREASE THE EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE OF ACTORS
- VALUE AND ALIGN ACTORS MEANS, MOTIVATIONS
- DEVELOP COLLECTIVE LEARNING
- PRODUCE NEW IDEAS IN A CO-CREATION



REALLY NICE OUTCOMES, BUT HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THEM?

(NEW) METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK



THREE MAIN DIMENSIONS:

- MORE DEMOCRATIC SPATIAL PLANNING ARENA(S)
- MAP STAKEHOLDER NEEDS, MEANS AND MOTIVATIONS
- MOBILIZE AND ALIGN ACTORS AROUND COMMON ISSUES

MORE DEMOCRATIC SPATIAL PLANNING ARENA(S)



Manifesto pelo Espaço Público, Amigosd'Avenida



Lower Manhattan Expressway (1962) - Walter Daran/
Getty Images (Guardian 12 September 2009)

- Find the adequate arenas (virtual & face2face)
- Create a collaborative environment (trust & empathy)
- Stakeholder mobilization right from the beginning in the purpose and general objectives definition;
- Make an effort to pedagogy and integration of different actors views, creating open and transparent arenas;
- And who leads/mediates? Bottom-up, Top-down or both?

EXAMPLES

SOCIAL MEDIA AND PUBLIC SPACE

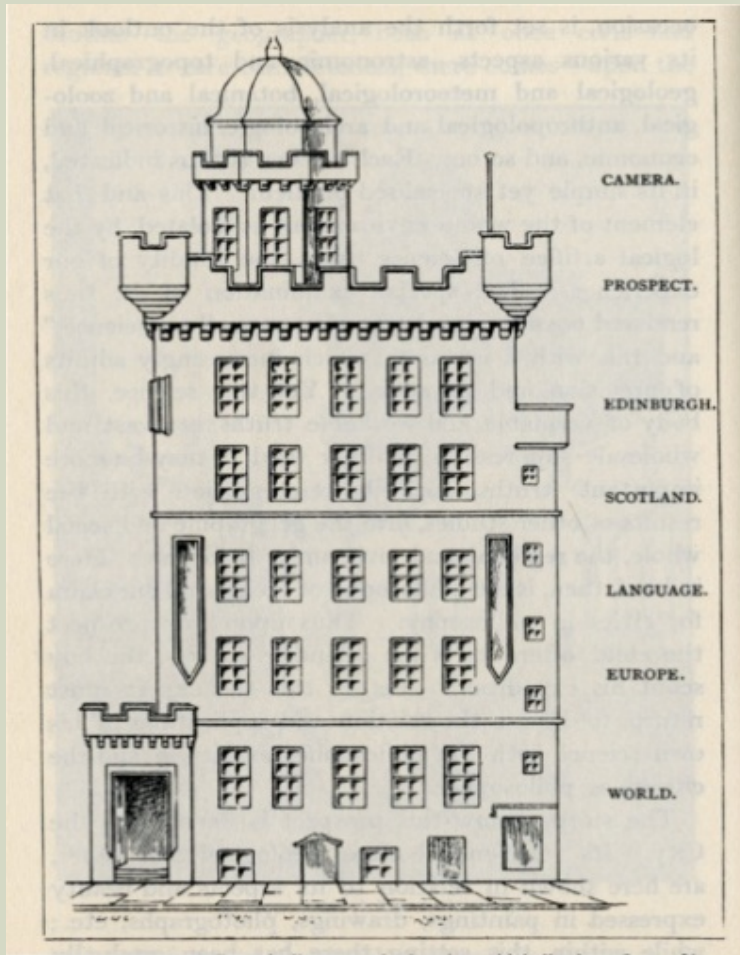


THE POWE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS (REAL AND VIRTUAL)



THE POWE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS (REAL AND VIRTUAL)

MAP STAKEHOLDER NEEDS, MEANS AND MOTIVATIONS



- Identify key stakeholders (formal and informal) and map their needs, means and motivations
- Provide information in a detailed, timely and easy to understand for all involved;
- Listen to the actors at critical moments, in particular the definition of objectives, theoretical & operative framework and planning instruments and proposals;

The Outlook Tower - Geddes (1915)

EXAMPLES

REDISCOVER RESOURCES (DEVALUED OR UNKNOWN)

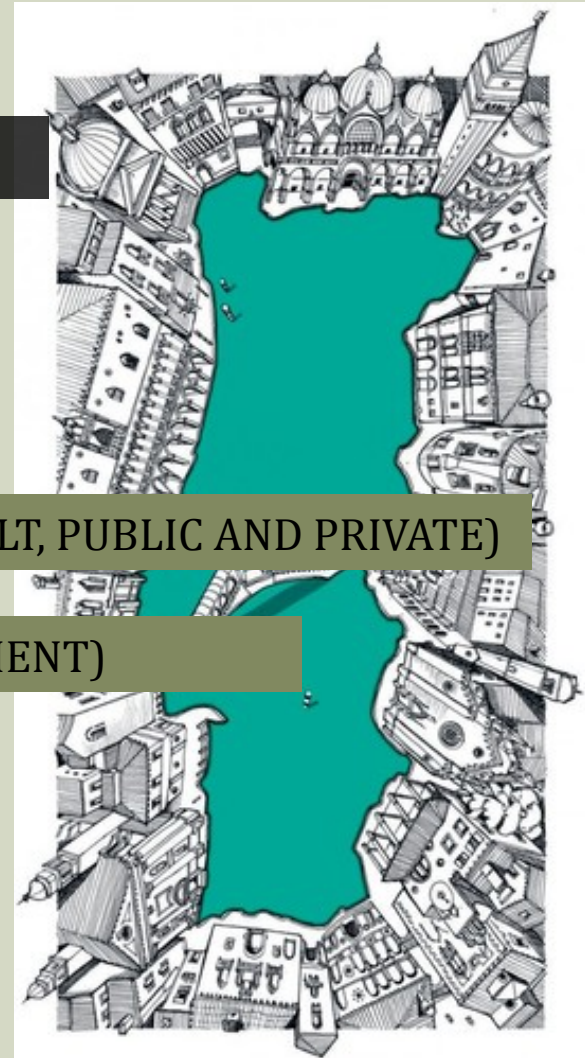
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CITIES AND ITS RESOURCES

SPACES VACANT UNDERUTILIZED OR (AND NOT BUILT BUILT, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)

NETWORKS OF PROXIMITY (ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUIPMENT)

CIVIC AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

ICT INFRASTRUCTURES / KNOWLEDGE



MOBILIZE AND ALIGN ACTORS AROUND COMMON ISSUES



- Promote participation as a tool for commitments and as an alignment of actors means and motivations to answer common issues;
- Support the development of cooperation initiatives in the design of measures and proposals for planning (CO-CREATION);
- Promote models of institutional articulation, creating conditions for enabling legal, technical and financial planning tools and subsequent implementation.

Um novo largo, Aveiro -
VivaCidade - Actors of Urban
Change (2014-2015)

EXAMPLES

USE THE PUBLIC SPACE



URBAN REGENERATION THROUGH SMALL INTERVENTIONS



MANIFESTO FOR THE PUBLIC SPACE



CELEBRATING PUBLIC SPACE

AND NOW?



- Urban regeneration of the city centre of Aveiro
- Small and low-cost initiatives - public space, design, arts and technology
- Collaborative processes involving citizens, civic organizations, university and local authorities



THANK YOU!

**“THE JOB OF A CITIZEN IS TO KEEP HIS MOUTH
OPEN.”**

GUNTER GRASS

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