

# PROGRAM

## THIRTY YEARS LATER: THE PARTICIPATORY TURN'S MIRAGES AND REALITIES



CPDS International Conference  
February 19 and 20, 2015

University of Montreal  
Carrefour des arts et des sciences  
3150, Jean-Brillant St., Pavillon Lionel-Groulx  
Room C-3061

**Free Admission- Registration Required**

**Contact and Registration**

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*English Version*

## ***Conference Theme***

Since more than thirty years, citizen participation is at the center of public life. Praised by technocrats and bureaucrats, adopted by local, national and international political actors, implemented by citizens and studied by analysts, the secrets of citizen participation seems to all be uncovered. However, participation is only rarely been understood over time. This conference proposes to unpack three 'hidden' dimensions of participation, understood as both a norm for public action and a well-established social practice: 1) the different interpretations given to the concept and practices of participation, given the contexts and spaces of participatory practices (which also varied over time); 2) the effects of participation on citizenship, in its relationship to institutions and its practices, and; 3) the effects of participation on public action, on the mechanisms invented over time to make compatible two often paradoxical reforms: the participatory injunction and state reforms.

**Thursday, February 19, 2015 - 1pm to 7pm**  
***Carrefour des arts et des sciences, Room C-3061***

**1pm-3pm - Panel 1 – A participatory injunction: changing meanings  
across contexts and spaces**

Once a radical democratic project, citizen participation is now an instrument of public policy that is diffused around the world, across contexts, as a panacea for policy efficiency, legitimacy, and so on. Citizen participation has become an injunction: for the governance of groups, businesses and local governments, but also in policy making, development initiatives and financial and social investment programs. What citizen participation means under such an injunction? From an ideal to its practices, how have its multiple meanings been developed, transformed, reinterpreted? How do context and culture matter in the way citizen participation is reinterpreted in its practices?

### ***Opening Remarks***

***Francesca Polletta, University of California, Irvine***

Enthusiasm for Citizen Participation: A Historical Look at Changing Views of Participatory Decision Making

***Nina Eliasoph, University of Southern California***

Top-Down Processes vs Local Knowledge: Designing Contextualized Participatory Practices

**Ernesto Ganuza, Spanish Research Council (IESA/CSIC)**

From Best Practices to Local Contexts: Conflicts and Paradox in the Rhetoric of Participation

**Discussant: Pascale Dufour, University of Montreal**

**Coffee Break- 3pm-3:30pm : Carrefour des arts et des sciences, Room C-2081/2083**

## **Carrefour des arts et des sciences, Room C-3061**

### **3:30pm-5:30pm – Panel 2 - Participation, Citizenship and Inequalities: Meaning(s), Practices and Expectations**

The multiplication of participatory mechanisms and processes has, however, a generally overlooked impact on citizenship, its meanings, practices and its relationship to the state, groups and individuals. This panel questions the nature of this link between participation and citizenship.

**Héloïse Nez, Université François-Rabelais, Tours**

Trajectories of politicization and professionalization through participation

**Françoise Montambeault, University of Montreal**

Constructing Citizenship in Participatory Budgeting: Variations among Citizens' Trajectories

**Dominique Leydet, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)**

Marginalized Groups and Inequalities in Participation and Deliberation

**Discussant: Deena White, University of Montreal**

**From 5:30pm - Cocktail and exhibition : Citoyen – Hier, aujourd'hui et demain**

**Carrefour des arts et des sciences, Room C-2081/2083**

**Friday, February 20, 2015 – 9am to 5pm**  
***Carrefour des arts et des sciences, Room C-3061***

**9am-11am – Panel 3 - Recent Trends in Public Reforms: Citizens versus  
Expert Led Decision-Making Process?**

The multiplication of participatory mechanisms in the past 30 years have raised expectations about the democratization of public administration and public decision-making processes. Yet, many doubts have emerged with regards to the actual effects of citizen participation, which are instrumentalized, depoliticized, and which do not always account for administrative cultures and local politics. Participatory practices are fragmented, are often experimental and punctual, which prevents their diffusion. This panel looks at the participatory turn from a public policy perspective, looking at state reforms which, paradoxically, have often complexified and closed public decision making processes, and at the public policy production contexts.

***Tina Nabatchi, Syracuse University***

Public Participation in State and Federal Government in the United States

***François-Pierre Gauvin, McMaster University***

Bringing the Public into Evidence-Informed Policy-Making: Lessons from the Health Sector

***Mario Gauthier, Political Science, Université du Québec en Outaouais***

Collaborative Planning and Reflexive Practices among Urban Planners and Public Participation Professionals in Quebec

***Discussant: Francis Garon, Glendon College, York University***

***Coffee-Break - 11am-11:30am: Carrefour des arts et des sciences, Room C-2081/2083***

***End of the Public Conference- Followed by a closed seminar for participants only!***

## Conference organized in collaboration with:

**The CPDS :** The mission of the *Centre de recherche sur les politiques et le développement social* (CPDS) is to stimulate exchanges between researchers from different disciplines, theoretical schools and various countries who share an interest in the relationship between public policy and society. Through seminars and roundtables organized, the CPDS become a meeting place for these researchers. The CPDS provides administrative support for research projects. It contributes to the training of students by involving them in research projects. It popularizes and disseminates research findings of its members. Finally, it participates in the production of educational materials.

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<http://ecomusee.qc.ca/>

**The Carrefour des arts et des sciences:** is a modern, user-friendly and accessible space that offers rooms for public benefits, experiments, training and dissemination of research.

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### Organizing Team

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