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## Ordinary Citizens vs Stakeholders. Which 'public' should participate in well-ordered science?

Renaud Fine

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# ORDINARY CITIZENS vs STAKEHOLDERS

Which 'public' should participate in well-ordered science?



Question: what is the right conception of 'the public' to be mobilized by normative theories of the democratization of science in order for them to fulfill their assigned goals?



Thesis: the conception implemented in Kitcher's ideal of a well-ordered science leads him to design a model which, if applied, would generate results opposite to those sought after.

**Kitcher's ideal of a well-ordered science: a science ultimately ordered by ordinary citizens**

Goal: to articulate a normative theory of the ways in which a system of public knowledge should be shaped to fight against all forms of oppression and therefore promote democratic ideals.

Identifiable

Non-Identifiable

main focus of Kitcher to realize the ideal of equality

**Use of statistical random selection techniques**

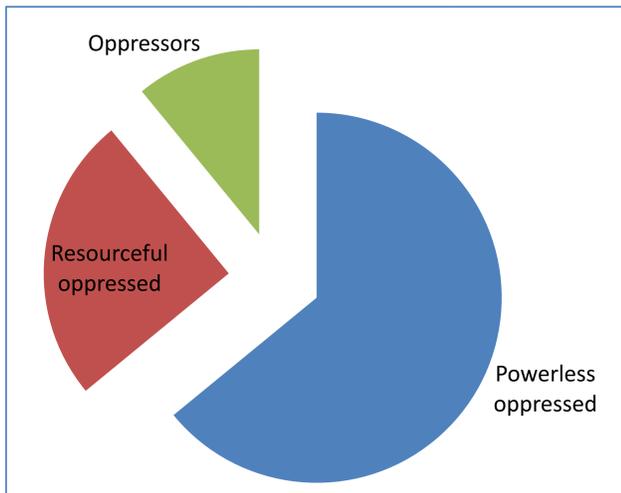
Fill the participative groups only with malleable constituents that will be affected by the discussion and allow the consultants to attest the efficiency of the process. (Lezaun & Soneryd 2007)

**Stakeholders**



possess

**Kitcher's conception of the public**



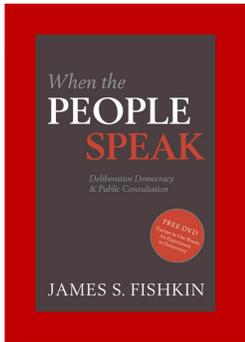
**Ordinary Citizens**



do not possess

expertise on and/or interests in the issue at hand prior to the deliberation  
**Classical sociological conception of the public**

**Goal: to make the ordinary citizens' voice heard**



(Fishkin 2009)

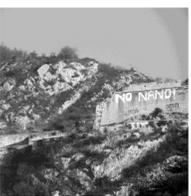
**However, the ordinary citizens' voice...**

**...silences all the stakeholders:**



Random selection techniques neglect small groups with strong stake / relevant expertise (Westphal 2014)

Sponsored participative initiatives are used in order to delegitimize spontaneous ones (Levidow & Marris 2001)



(Public protests against nanotechnologies in Grenoble, 2009)

**=> Aggravation of the identifiable oppression**

**...conceals and strengthens deeper inequalities:**



"The oppressed [have] internalized the image of the oppressor and adopted his guidelines" (Freire 1970)

Deliberative processes can reconstitute the oppressors' discourse while giving it a moral authority that make it harder to question. (Gaventa & Cornwall 2006)



**=> Aggravation of the unidentifiable oppression**

The concrete application of Kitcher's model, centered on the ordinary citizen's voice, would therefore likely lead to a sharpening of the very tensions it aims at alleviating

**COUNTER IDEAL**

**=> Why not try to implement stake-oriented participative processes ?**