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

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ORDINARY CITIZENS vs STAKEHOLDERS

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



Thesis: the conception of 'the public' mobilized in Philip 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.

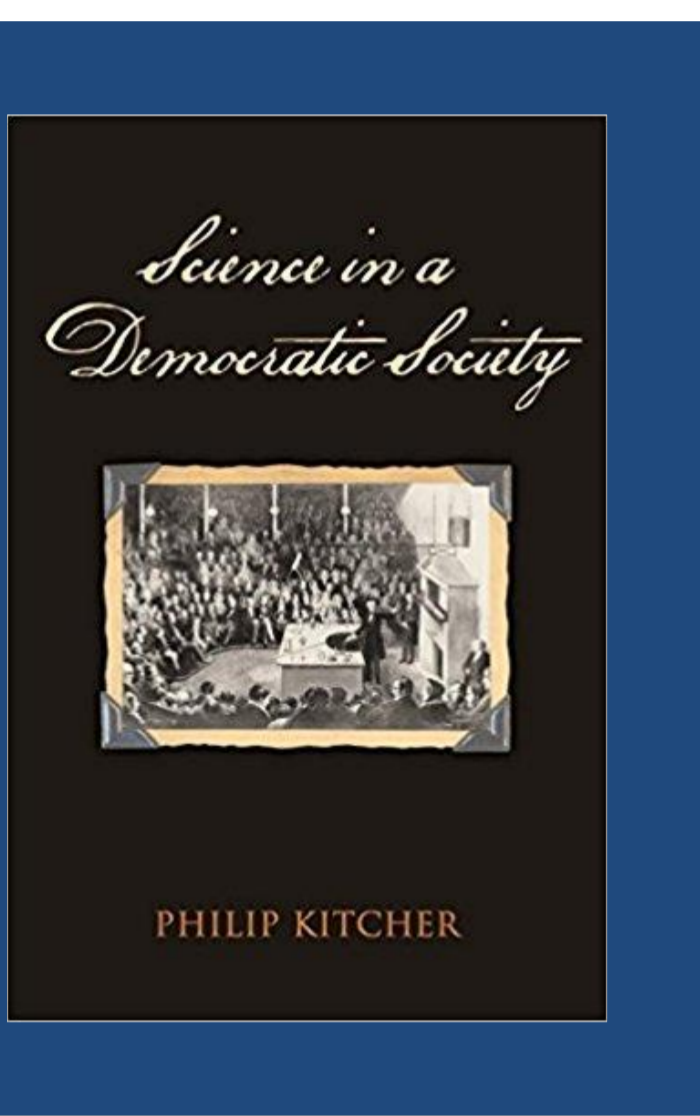
Kitcher's ideal of a well-ordered science: **a science ultimately ordered by ordinary citizens**

Goal: shape the system of public knowledge so as to promote democratic ideals and therefore fight against all forms of **oppression**

Identifiable \neq Non-Identifiable \rightarrow Promoting the ideal of equality

Kitcher's conception of the public

Use of random selection techniques



(Kitcher 2011)

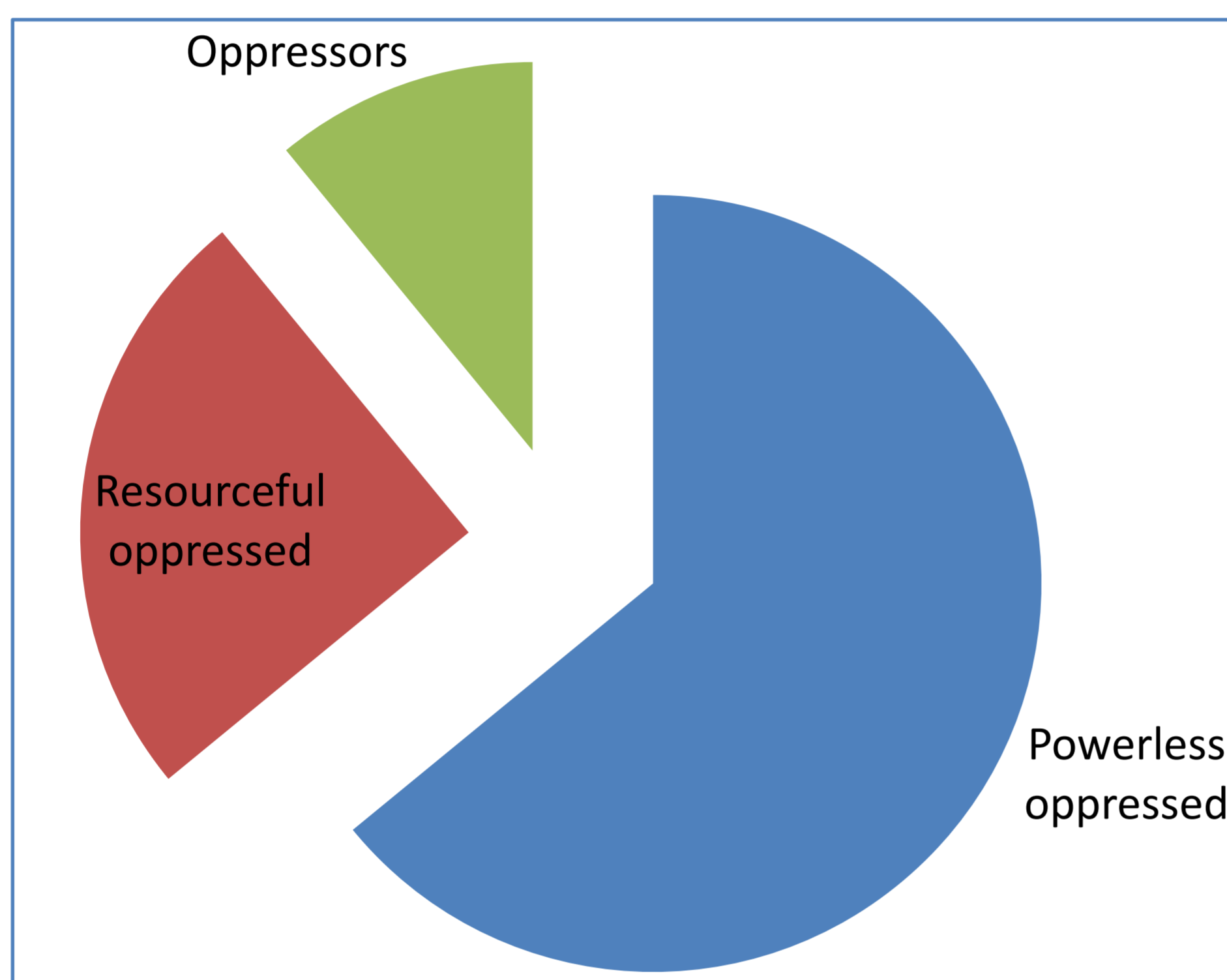
Stakeholders



possess

expertise on and/or interests in the issue at hand prior to the deliberation

Classical sociological conception of the public

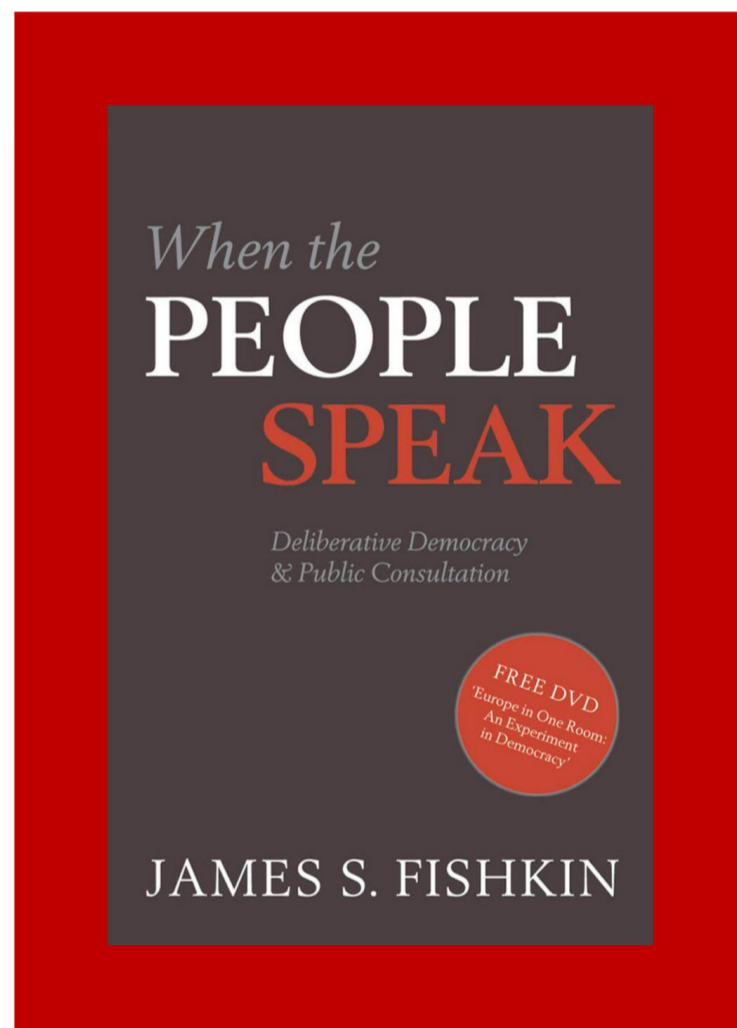


do not possess

Key value: mobility / malleability of the participants' opinions.



Goal: to make the people's voice heard

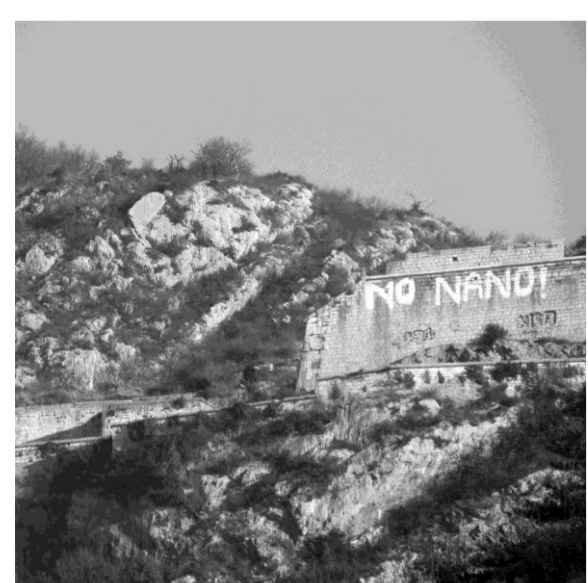


(Fishkin 2009)

However, the ordinary citizens' voice...

...silences the resourceful oppressed:

Random selection techniques neglect small groups with strong stake / relevant expertise



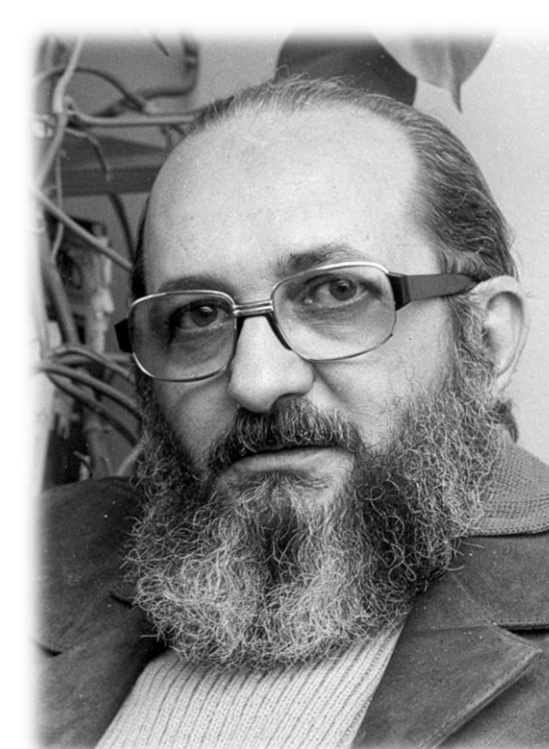
(Public protests against nanotechnologies in Grenoble, 2009)



Sponsored participative initiatives are instrumentalized so as to delegitimize spontaneous ones .

Aggravation of the identifiable oppression

...conceals and strengthens the deeper inequalities the powerless suffer from:



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

"Ordinary" deliberative processes are likely to endorse the oppression, thus giving it an added moral authority.



Aggravation of the unidentifiable oppression

COUNTER IDEAL