

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEMINAR



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What is Good Citizen Participation in the Context of Climate Policy-Making Processes?

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Abstract

Citizen participation formats such as citizen assemblies and citizen juries are extremely popular in the context of contemporary climate policy-making processes. Commonly these formats are justified by reference to the positive effects that citizen participation will generate, including increasing democratic legitimacy, leading to better policy outcomes and higher social acceptance of said policy outcomes. In short, citizen participation formats are often introduced with a wide range of normative expectations. However, quite often these normative expectations are not properly explained or defined. So what exactly would good citizen participation in the context of climate policy-making look like? This paper tries to (partially) answer that question and explain the difficulties of satisfying said normative expectations by looking at the pitfalls and shortcomings of existing citizen participation formats in four metropolitan cities.