

Poor Citizenship: Strategies for Enhancing Active Citizenship and Developing Programs to Fight Poverty

Thomas Bryer, PhD

Visiting Professor & Fulbright Scholar, Kaunas University of Technology (LT)

Visiting Professor, Edge Hill University (United Kingdom)

Nothing **without us** about us **is for us**.

Contradictions:

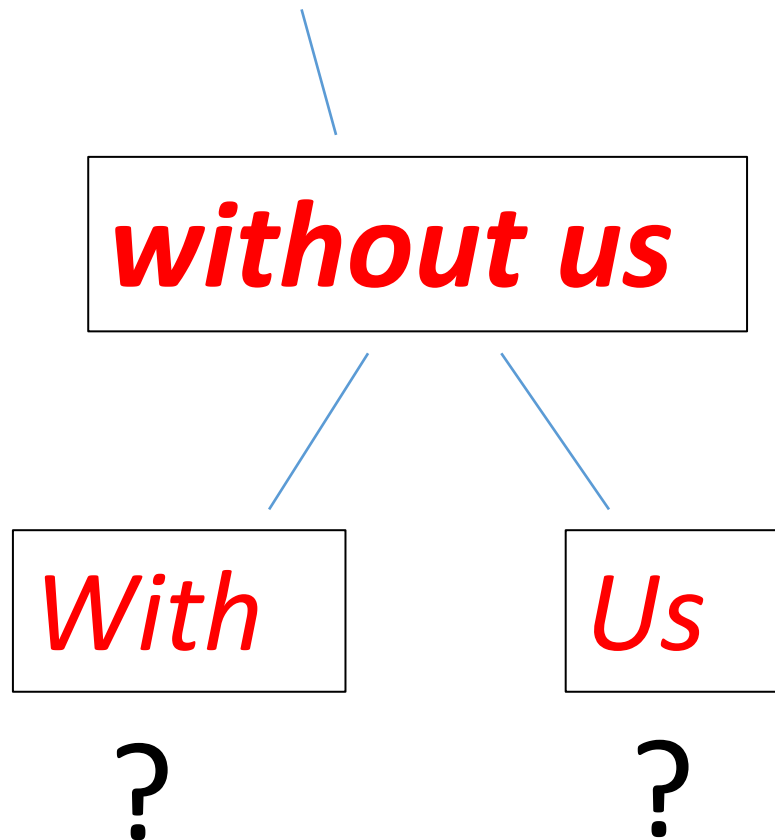
Active citizenship vs. Technical Expertise

Empowerment of people vs. Stability in governance

Genuine and sustainable empowerment vs. Artificial empowerment

War on Poverty based on Collaborative Governance vs. Rule of Elite

Nothing **without us** about us is for us.



Us

“How to create a new set of era-appropriate national orchestration mechanisms and policy arrangements through which the voices and constructive input of *the poor—those best situated to identify day-to-day barriers to opportunity*—can continually be taken into account by the regulatory apparatus in practical social-welfare policymaking” (Melish, 2010, p. 11).

Us

“The concept was simple: those most affected by social disadvantage ... were *necessarily better positioned to understand poverty’s causes, to identify the most effective solutions to them, and to advocate their own communities’ interests* than were ‘outside’ middle-class professional reformers lacking any direct experience with those conditions” (Melish, 2010, p. 18).

Us

“[The] participatory engagement [of the poor] would *ensure that programs were in fact responding flexibly to changing community needs and priorities*, being communicated in effective and culturally appropriate ways, and leading to actual measurable improvements in the lived realities of impoverished communities”

(Melish, 2010, p. 18).



Legal Citizenship

Political & Ethical Citizenship

Cultural and Religious Citizenship

**Included-Out
Citizen**

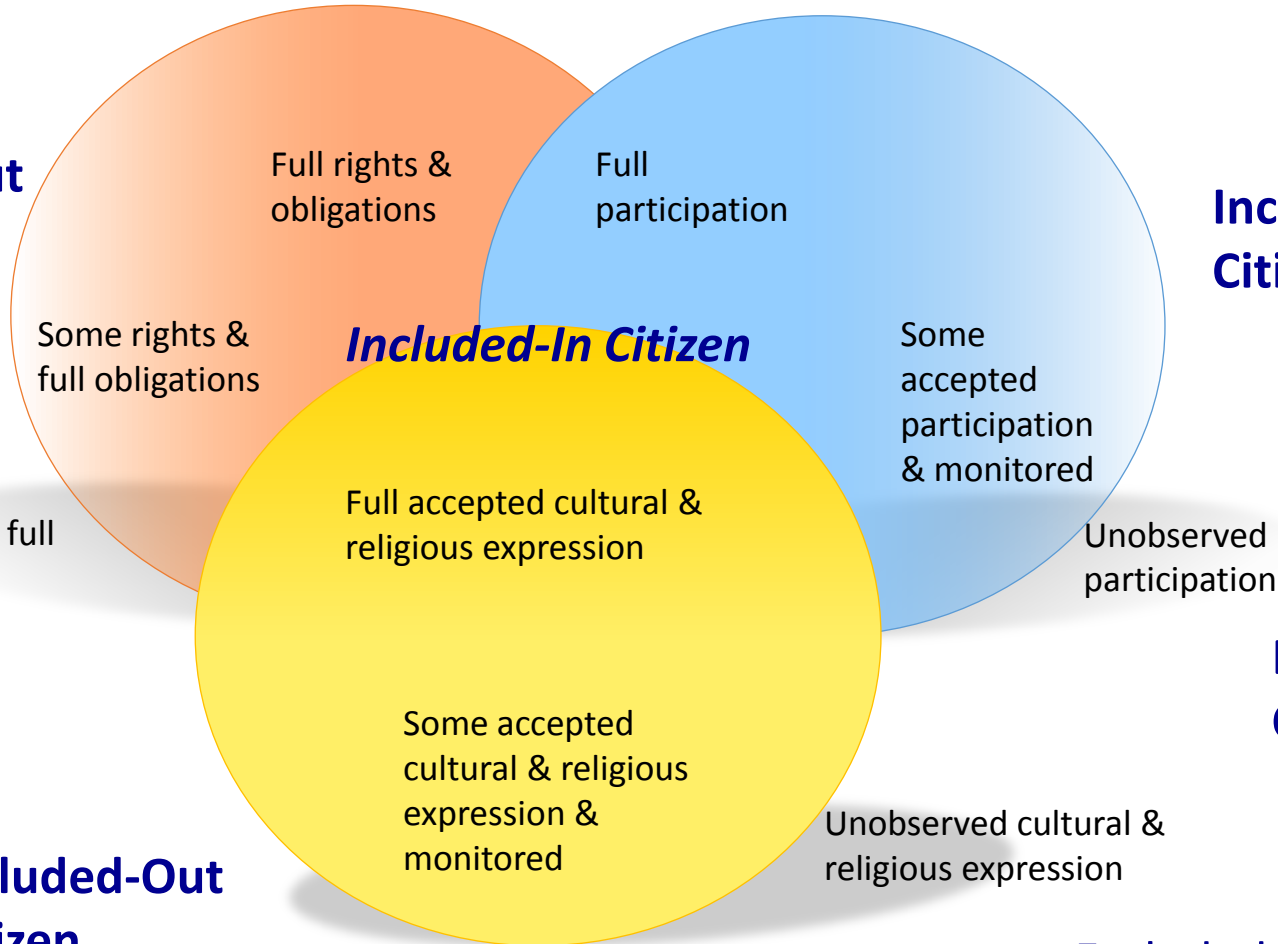
**Included-Out
Citizen**

**Excluded
Citizen**

**Excluded
Citizen**

**Included-Out
Citizen**

**Excluded
Citizen**



More on the Included Out: Empathy. Walking Away?



More on the Included Out

	Deserving	Undeserving
Stronger	Advantaged	Contenders
Weaker	Dependents	Deviants

Schneider & Ingram, 1997

With

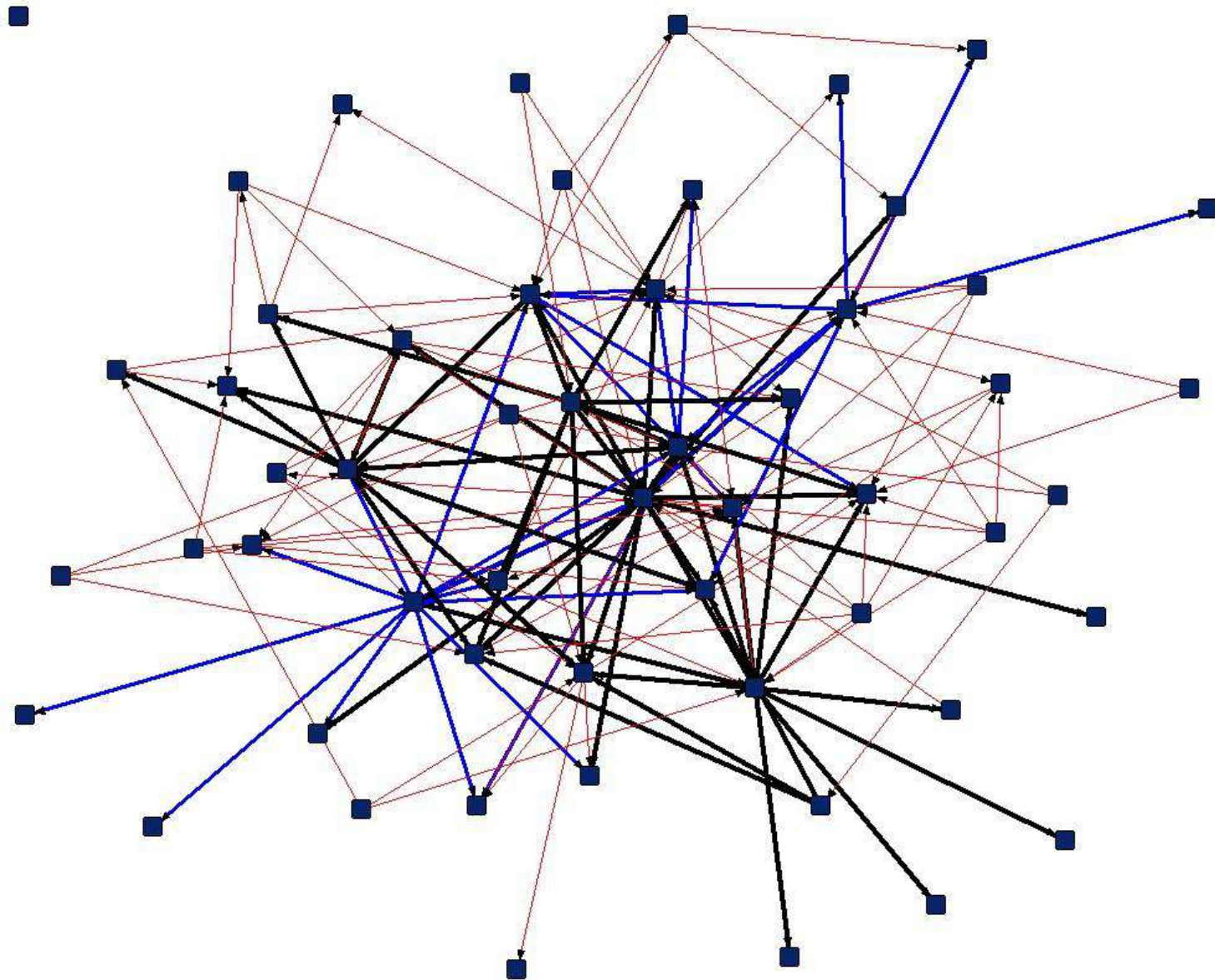
Maximum Feasible Participation

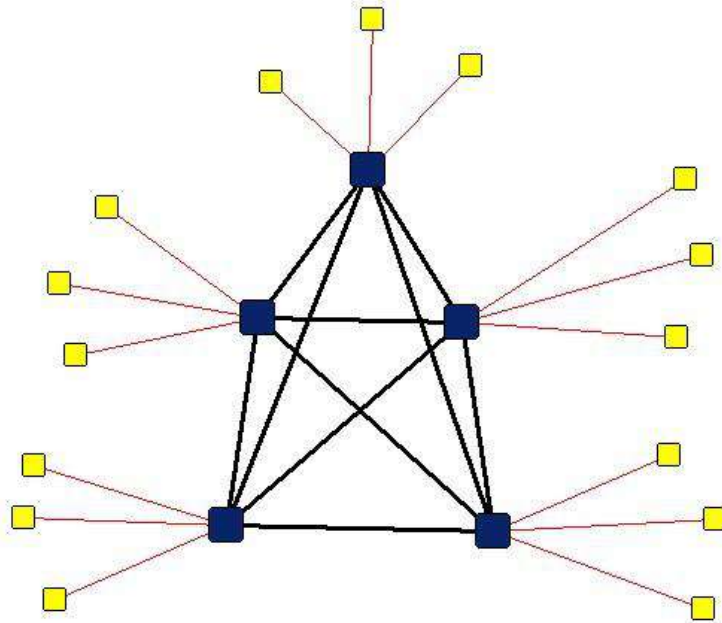
- Organize the power structure
- Expand the power structure
- Confront the power structure
- Assist the power structure

With

Maximum Feasible Participation

- **Organize the power structure**
 - Expand the power structure
 - Confront the power structure
 - Assist the power structure





With

Maximum Feasible Participation

- Organize the power structure
 - Expand the power structure
- **Confront the power structure**
- **Assist the power structure**

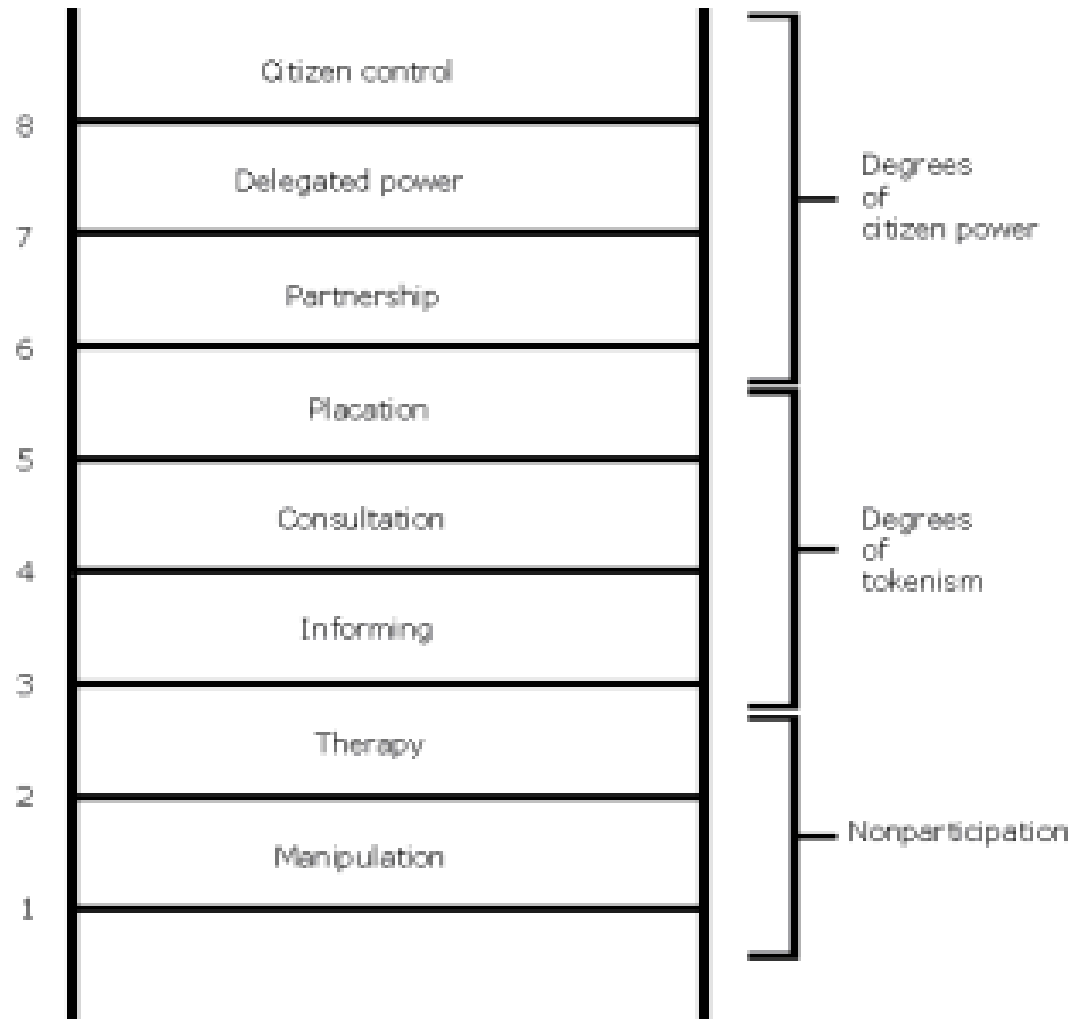
Questions and Assumptions

How can participation of the poor contribute to the achievement of measurable poverty reductions?

*Given traditional forms of participation, such as the periodic electoral vote, how can such participation operationally be structured **such that it complements, rather than antagonizes**, the role of elected representative government?*

(Melish, 2010, p. 17)

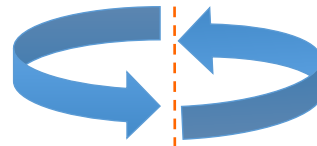




Arnstein's Ladder of Participation

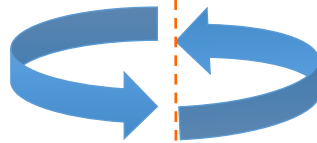
Empowerment

Government provides open access to participatory process, gives tools to citizens for meaningful participation, and clearly communicates expectations



Manipulation

Government provides open access to participatory process without clear expectation or in intensive limited manner



Participation

Empowerment – Manipulation Matrix

Empowerment	High	Authentic Participation <i>Strategy: Mobilization (Outsider-Outsider)</i>	Symbolic/Fake Participation <i>Strategy: Cooptation (Insider-Outsider)</i>
	Low	Controlled Participation <i>Strategy: Persuasion (Outsider-Insider)</i>	Tokenistic Participation <i>Strategy: Exclusion (Insider-Insider)</i>
		Low	High
		Manipulation	

How can participation of the poor contribute to the achievement of measurable poverty reductions?

*Given traditional forms of participation, such as the periodic electoral vote, how can such participation operationally be structured **such that it complements, rather than antagonizes**, the role of elected representative government?*

(Melish, 2010, p. 17)

OR

*...such that is complements **AND** antagonizes the role of elected representative government.*

War on Poor Citizenship
Concept Map

Included-In Citizen

High Agency Poverty

High Status Poverty

High Ethical Citizenship

High Legal Citizenship

Empowered Participation

Mobilization

Persuasion

Included-Out Citizen

Low Agency Poverty

Low Status Poverty

Low Ethical Citizenship

Low Legal Citizenship

Manipulated Participation

Cooptation

Exclusion

Subsistence Poverty

War on Poor Citizenship

Concept Map

Included-In Citizen

High Agency Poverty

High Status Poverty

High Ethical Citizenship

High Legal Citizenship

Authentic Participation

Strategy:
Mobilization (Outsider-Outsider)

Symbolic/Fake Participation

Strategy:
Cooptation (Insider-Outsider)

Included-Out Citizen

Low Agency Poverty

Low Status Poverty

Low Ethical Citizenship

Low Legal Citizenship

Controlled Participation

Strategy:
Persuasion (Outsider-Insider)

Tokenistic Participation

Strategy:
Exclusion (Insider-Insider)

Manipulated Participation

Cooptation

Exclusion

Subsistence Poverty



EMAIL: THOMAS.BRYER@UCF.EDU
SKYPE AND FACEBOOK: DR.BRYER

