Deliberative Democracy and Resource Management Education

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Main Argument

• Deliberative Democracy (DD) has been fraught with implementation and other deficits when it comes to Climate Change (CC)

• Business models focusing on people, planet and profits are rapidly emerging

• This has greatly enhanced the role DD can play in protecting the earth
Topics to be Covered

1. Deliberative Democracy: The Theory
2. Deliberative Democracy and Climate Change
3. Deliberative Democracy: Successes and Failures
4. Overcoming the Deliberative Democracy Deficit
5. Edmonton Citizens’ Panel
Deliberative Democracy: The Theory

• **DD:** Central Place for Reasoned Discussion on Politics

• No agreement on definition:
  
  • Education (Arendt)
  
  • Society—Creating/Consolidating (Habermas)
  
  • Mini-Publics (Dryzek)
  
  • Marginalized Voices (Kahane)
Deliberative Democracy and Climate Change

• Inclusive, unconstrained public reason-giving

• Leads to better outcomes

• Influencing both input and output sides of policy-making
Deliberative Democracy: Successes

• Porto Alegre, Brazil (City Budget – social services)

• Bangla Desh (Health-care Watch committees)

• California (Health-care Reform)
Deliberative Democracy: Failure with Climate Change

• Problematic Assumptions of Green Theory:
  • People will be transformed through DD (short-term only)
  • Unconstrained deliberation will take place (backgrounds affect decisions)
  • Good input will lead to good output (overlooks context)
  • Businesses will not try to influence input (TASSC, etc)
  • Wicked Reality (complex and long-term)
Overcoming the Deliberative Deficit (1)

• UN Global Compact – 10 principles:
  
  • Human Rights
  
  • Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
  
  • Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
  
  • Labour
  
  • Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
  
  • Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
  
  • Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
  
  • Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
Overcoming the Deliberative Deficit (2)

• UN Global Compact – 10 principles:
  • Environment
  • Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
  • Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
  • Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

• Anti-Corruption
  • Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery (Global Compact Office, 2011).
Overcoming the Deliberative Deficit (3)

• Private International Law
  • Europe is ahead with Brussels I

• America is behind

• More of world following Europe’s lead
Edmonton Citizens’ Panel

• Funded by:
  • SEE
  • SSHRC
  • Community Groups (DD)

• Made up of:
  • Edmontonians of all walks of life
Edmonton Citizens’ Panel: Recommendations

• 1. Reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the provincial electricity grid

• 2. Increase the proportion of development undertaken to create compact, mixed-used, transit-oriented neighbourhoods within already developed areas of the city

• 3. Reduce the energy use in industrial facilities through energy efficiency and a focus on industrial developments with lower energy use

• 4. Increase the uptake of distributed energy generation (e.g., solar heat and power, and natural gas combined heat and power plants) through barrier removal, capacity building, incentives, and regulations

• 5. Increase the energy efficiency of buildings (new and old) through capacity building, incentives, and regulations

• 6. Reduce the amount of gasoline and diesel used in the vehicle fleet through capacity building, incentives, and regulations (Edmonton Citizens’ Panel, 2013, p. I)
Deliberative Democracy is Integrative Education

• Hard Integration: several disciplines

• Soft Integration: heart, education, and doing good
Q & A

• What questions do you have?

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