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Reflections on Participative Methods in Technology Development Research

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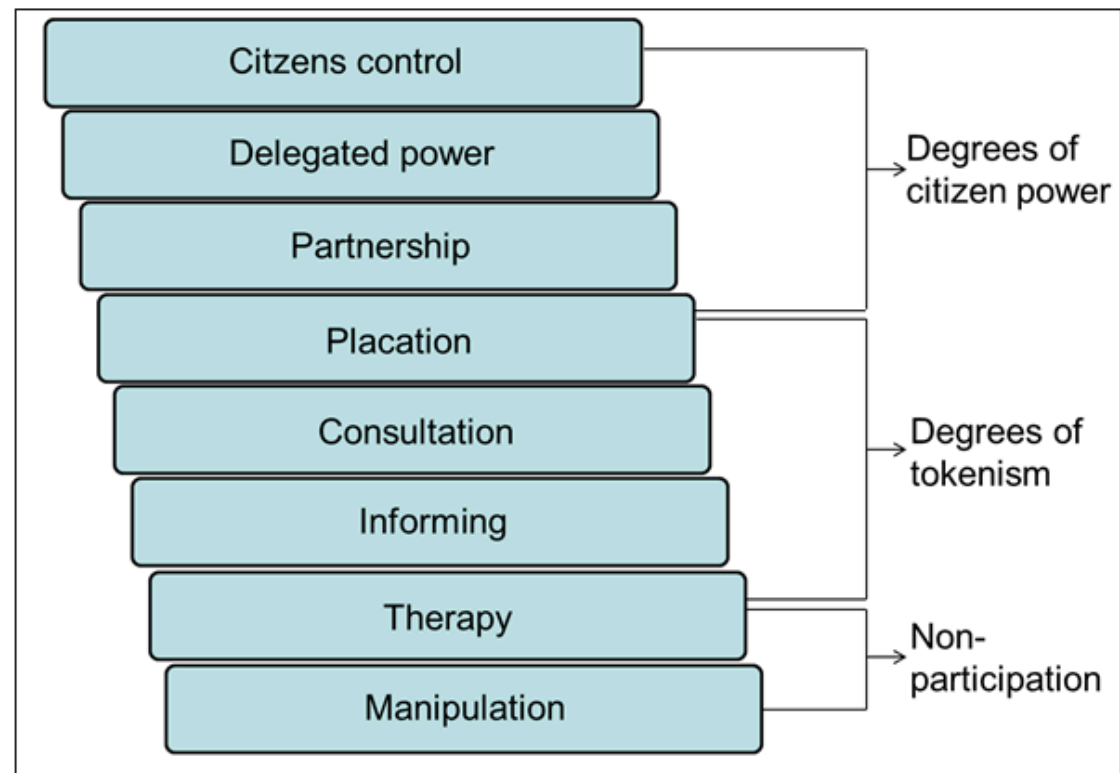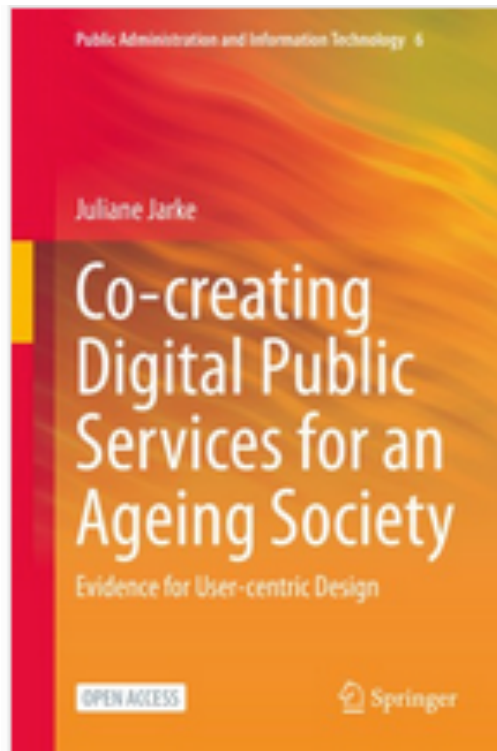# Definition of „participation" in technology development

German Society for Computer Sciences, Working Group „Participation" (Gesellschaft für Informatik, e.V., Fachgruppe Partizipation)

„We define „participation" as an early, continuous and empowering involvement of an addressee of a technology in all relevant decisions concerning a joint problem definition and finding of a solution, which also includes non-technical solutions and therefore has to be open for non-technical results as well."

https://fg-partizipation.gi.de/

Questions

How to enable participation at the beginning of a research process → co-defining the „problem" vs. allowing participation only at the end as a tester or consultant?

Arnstein, S. (1969.) A ladder of citizen participation. Journal of the American Planning Association, 35(4), 216–224.
Jarke, Juliane (2021). *Co-creating digital public services for an ageing society*. Evidence from practice. Series: Information Technology and Public Administration. Springer.

Questions

How to ensure that participative projects get funded and are open-ended, that is, <u>not</u> centered on a „technology-fix"?

What kind of peer-review is needed to evaluate participative elements of project applications?

How to make sure that sociologists are not only seen as „auxillarary sciencists" for engineers who want them only to analyse the acceptance of a technological product?