

The Micro Politics of Participatory Planning Practices (Revised 1-27!)

Spring 2005
Tuesdays, 2:30-5:20
115 West Sibley

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:20-5:20pm
(And by appointment)

In a world of power, conflict, and interdependence, community development planners and planning analysts of many kinds need to learn in practice all the time. These planners work in-between many interested parties. They need not just to listen to what stakeholders claim—but to listen for underlying issues of significance and value too.

This seminar will explore the worlds of community development and planning by examining the experiences of practitioners in diverse planning fields as they have confronted the challenges and obstacles of their practical work. How can we learn from planners' and organizers' efforts to encourage participatory processes (or community mobilization)? Throughout, we will examine the problematically deliberative character of community development and planning practice: who's involved and who frames agendas, who's playing catch-up and who's not?

Our readings will combine applied and theoretical work on "practice" (rhetoric and negotiation, interpretation and judgment, narrative and recognition) with analyses of democratic deliberations (ethics and argument, participation and identity, historical trauma and working-through, and more). Taken together, these readings provide the basis for an analysis of planning and community development practices that we can call a "critical pragmatism": "critical" because sensitive to issues of power and ethics, and a "pragmatism" because it helps us to assess issues of concrete, situated action in planning and related political processes. We will examine problems of deliberative learning and practice in a range of cases of students' interest.

This seminar reflects several agendas: preparation for research (and/or doctoral exams) for students with an interest in the politics of community development and planning and critical theories of planning and education, and introduction to theoretical and empirical work underlying the study of planning and organizing practices. The course should familiarize Ph.D. and Masters students (in community development, planning and related applied fields) with social and political theories relevant to assessing plan and policy implementation (and "what practitioners do.")

Throughout the term we will also focus upon practical problems of research and interviewing: how can we explore "power" or "participation," for example, through field interviews and oral histories? How can such interviews lead and not just follow from 'theory'? How can such interviews teach us about planning practice itself? Building on the instructor's research, we will complement broader "theoretical readings" with successive chapters of The Deliberative Practitioner (MIT 99).

Readings will also be made available for copying in a packet.

Schedule of Meetings and Readings

- 1. Tues. Jan. 25 Introduction: Themes and Concepts, Theory and Research, Challenges of Exploring and Studying Community Development and Planning Practice**
(Launching your projects: bringing critical analysis to bear via accounts of engaged practice— assessing and learning from insiders' stories, and cultivating surprise, insight, and seeing in new ways. Have a look at our new "Profiles of Practitioners" site:
<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/practicestories/index.htm>

2. Tues. Feb. 1 Power, Rationality and Deliberative Practice

(Identifying a Mentor? Who would be fascinating to interview? Who faces, everyday, the problems you'd really like to learn about?)

Read:

John Forester, "Introduction: Renewing Planning Practice By Fostering Public Deliberations in an Adversarial World" in The Deliberative Practitioner.

John Forester, "On the Ethics of Planning: What Profiles of Planners Can Teach Us About Practical Judgment and Moral Improvisation," Deliberative Practitioner, Chap. 8.

Robert Reich: "Policy Making in a Democracy," in R. Reich, ed. The Power of Public Ideas, Cambridge: Ballinger, 1988. 123-155. •

3. Tues. Feb. 8 What Do Stories Have To Do With Policy Analysis and Planning?: Politics and Judgment

(Continue your search for practice-wise interviewees, begin to use our Profiles site:

<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/practicestories/index.htm>)

Read:

Leonie Sandercock, "Dreaming the Sustainable City: Organizing Hope, Negotiating Fear, Mediating Memory," in J. Throgmorton and B. Eckstein, Eds. Story and Sustainability. MIT 2003. pgs 142-164. •

"From Nightmare to National Implications: A Profile of Lisa Beutler," J. Forester, ed. 9-04. (http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/courses/practicestories/COLL_Planners.htm)

John Gaventa, "Power and Participation," in Power and Powerlessness, Urbana: U. Illinois Pr. pgs 3-32. •

John Forester, "Argument, Power, and Passion in Planning Practice," in Seymour Mandelbaum, Luigi Mazza, and R. Burchell, Eds. 1996. Explorations in Planning Theory. New Brunswick: Center for Urban Policy Research. 241-263.

4. Tues. Feb. 15 Stories and Ethics, Listening and The Politics of Attention

(Scheduling and Interviewing)

Read:

Robert Coles: "Stories and Theories," in his The Call of Stories, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989, pgs 1-30. •

J. Forester, "Listen to Stories, Learn in Practice: The Priority of Practical Judgment," in The Deliberative Practitioner, Chap. 1.

"From Conflict Generation Through Consensus-Building Using Many of the Same Skills: A Profile of Frank Blechman" (J. Forester, ed. CRP, 2003).

"Dispute Resolution Meets Policy Analysis, or Native Gathering Rights on "Private" Lands: A Profile of Peter Adler (J. Forester, ed. CRP, 2004)"

5. Tues. Feb. 22 Studying Cases: Listening To And Learning From Stories

(Scheduling and Interviewing)

Read:

Martha Nussbaum. "Finely Aware and Richly Responsible: Literature and the Moral Imagination" in her Love's Knowledge, New York: Oxford. 1990. pgs 148-167. •

John Forester, 1989. "Listening: The Social Policy of Everyday Life," in Planning in the Face of Power,
Anna Deveare Smith, Fires in the Mirror, NY: Anchor, 1993. pgs xvii-66.

**6. Tues. Mar. 1 The Rationality of Listening In Complex (Messy) Cases
(Interviewing)**

Read:

Martha Nussbaum, "The Discernment of Perception: An Aristotelian Conception of Private and Public Rationality," in Love's Knowledge, Oxford: Oxford U. Pr. 1990, p54-105. •

**7. Tues. Mar. 8 Doing Things With Words: Argumentation, Deliberation and Practice
(Interviewing)**

Read:

Giandomenico Majone: "Policy Analysis and Public Deliberation," and "Analysis as Argument," in his Evidence, Argument and Persuasion in the Policy Process, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989. 1-20, 21-41 •

John Forester, "Challenges of Mediation and Deliberation in the Design Professions: Practice Stories from Israel and Norway," Chap. 3, and "Recognition and Opportunities for Deliberation in the Face of Conflict," Chap. 4, in Deliberative Practitioner, 1999.

John Forester, "Critical Ethnography: On Fieldwork in a Habermasian Way," in Mats Alvesson and Hugh Wilmott, Eds. Critical Management Studies, (reprinted 2003).

**8. Tues. Mar. 15 Presumptions and Critical Pragmatism ("good judgment"), and/or the
"Fallacy of Misplaced Abstraction"
(Discussion of Completed Interviews)**

Read:

John Forester. "Rationality, Emotional Sensitivity, and Moral Vision in Daily Planning Practice" in The Deliberative Practitioner, Chap. 2.

John Forester. 1999. "Dealing with Deep Value Differences: How Can Consensus Building Make A Difference?" L. Susskind et al, Eds. Handbook on Consensus Building, Sage.

Anna Deveare Smith: Fires in the Mirror, NY: Anchor, 1993. pgs 57-end.

Mar. 22 Spring Break (and transcribing)

**9. Tues. Mar. 29 Ritual As An Infrastructure of Democratic, Participatory Learning
(Transcribing and more transcribing)**

Read:

Steven Lukes. 1975. "Political Ritual and Social Integration," Sociology 9:2, pgs 289-308. •

Barbara Myerhoff, "Life History Among the Elderly: Performance, Visibility, Re-

Membering," in Jay Ruby, ed. A Crack in the Mirror: Reflexive Perspectives in Anthropology, Philadelphia: U. Pennsylvania Press, 1982, p 99-117. •
John Forester 1996. "Beyond Dialogue to Transformative Learning: How Deliberative Rituals Encourage Political Judgment in Community Planning Processes," [Deliberative Practitioner, Chap. 5]

10. Tues. Apr. 5 Deliberation, Mediated Participation, and Learning About Value (not Values!)

(Discussion of using transcripts, finish transcribing.1)

Read:

John Forester, "The Promise of Activist Mediation in Planning and Public Management," The Deliberative Practitioner, Chap. 6.

John Forester, "The Politics of Planning Communities: The Art of Collaborative Consensus-Building," Keynote address, Safe Communities Symposium, Sydney, Australia, July 2004.

Bent Flyvbjerg, "Power has a Rationality that Rationality Does Not Know," Chap. 20 in Rationality and Power, 1998. pgs 225-237. •

11. Tues. Apr. 12 Deliberation, Ritually Safe(r) Spaces, and Recognizing Loss (1)
(Discussion of using transcripts, finish transcribing.2)

Read:

Judith Lewis Herman, "Remembrance and Mourning," in Trauma and Recovery, New York: Basic Books, 1992, pgs 175-195. •

John Forester, "On Not Leaving Your Pain at the Door: Political Deliberation, Critical Pragmatism, and Traumatic Histories," The Deliberative Practitioner, Chap. 7.

Michael Hughes et al, "Facilitating Statewide HIV/AIDS Policies and Priorities in Colorado," in L. Susskind et al, The Consensus-Building Handbook, 1999. 1011-1030.

12. Tues. Apr. 19 Recognizing and Representing Loss (2)
(Begin discussion of completed interview transcripts/analysis)

Read:

Martha Nussbaum, "Tragic Dilemmas: How Difficult Choices Can Lead to Human Progress" (Radcliffe Quarterly) pg.7-9.

Jerome Groopman, "Dying Words," New Yorker, 10/28/02. pgs. 62-70. •

John Forester, "Critical Moments in Negotiations: On Humor, Recognition and Hope," Negotiation Journal. April 2004. [and revised for Irony and Organizations: Epistemological Claims and Supporting Field Stories, Ulla Johansson and Jill Woodilla, Eds. Abstrak Forlag-Liber-Copenhagen Business School Press, 2004.]

13. Tues. Apr. 26 What Do We Mean When We Say, "Democratic"?
(Discussion of completed interview transcripts/analysis)

Read:

Barber, Benjamin, selections from "Citizenship and Participation: Politics as Epistemology," Chap. 8 in Strong Democracy, Berkeley: U. Calif. Press, 1984. 163-212. •

Jurgen Habermas. "Three Normative Models of Democracy," in Seyla Benhabib, ed. Democracy and Difference. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1996.pgs. 21-30. •

14. Tues. May 3 Interdependence and Possibilities of Moral Deliberation (Discussion of completed interview transcripts/analysis)

Read:

Seyla Benhabib, "Cultural Complexity, Moral Interdependence, and the Global Dialogical Community," in Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover, Eds. 1995. Women, Culture, and Development, New York: Oxford, p235-255. •

Margaret Urban Walker, "Keeping Moral Space Open: New Images of Ethics Consulting," Hastings Center Report, March-April 1993, p33-40. •

"Talking with the Enemy," Boston Globe, January 28, 2001. (typescript) •

David Crocker, "Cross-Cultural Criticism and Development Ethics," Philosophy and Public Policy Quarterly, 24:3, pgs 2-8. Summer 2004.

15. Monday May 9 Papers Due, 5pm, 111 West Sibley

(Please double-space, use 12-point font, check that the conclusion answers what the introduction poses as questions and that the body, the interview and your analysis, supports your conclusions...)