

Citizen participation, lay expertise and epistemic injustice

Workshop at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
March 19-21, 2025

Hosted by Eva Krick & Claudia Landwehr

Program

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The workshop is part of the INFLUEX project that studies the influence of experts in policy-making, is led by Cathrine Holst & Johan Christensen and funded by the Norwegian Research Council.

Please register at frinken@politik.uni-mainz.de

Workshop program

Wednesday, March 19

16.00-17.30 Optional joint walk through Mainz (low key, DIY guided tour; We meet in the foyer of our hotel 'me & all')

18.15-19.30 **Public Keynote**

Lisa Herzog (University of Groningen):

Lay people, experts, democrats - from antagonism to partnership

The relation between experts and citizens is often portrayed as one of conflict; expertocracy and democracy are seen as mutually exclusive. In this talk, I suggest a model that moves beyond this antagonism, towards a model of partnership that allows the development of mutual trust, but not blind trust. Key for this model is the basic insight that all citizens are, in some sense, experts, and all are, in many areas, lay people. As lay people *and* as experts, they have democratic responsibilities to make this partnership functional. I discuss these responsibilities, and also some of the current challenges that stem from the influx of private money on research and from social media communication.

20.00 Joint dinner

Thursday, March 20

9.00-9.15 Welcome and introduction

9.15-10.45 **Panel I: Experience-based knowledge and storytelling**

Tone Alm Andreassen (Oslo Metropolitan University):

Uninformed professionals and expert clients: How storytelling signals the ambiguous position of clients as knowledge providers

My Rafstedt (University of Oslo) & Martín Hernán Di Marco
(Leiden University):

**Differential stories? Abortion, narratives, and the mobilization of
medical knowledge in Latin American prisons**

Discussant: Eva Krick

10.45-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-13.00 **Panel II: Citizens and experts in minipublics**

Kaisa Herne (Tampere University):

**How citizens and experts interact in three discussion
environments? Evidence from *Citizens' Parliament***

Frederick Pfeiffer (University of Gothenburg):

**Scrutinising the legitimacy of citizen assemblies and their
outputs – A comprehensive study of fairness assessments and
political efficacy**

Katharina Liesenberg (University of Darmstadt/Social Democratic
Party):

Mini-publics as accountability mechanisms (research agenda
pitch)

Discussant: Brigitte Geißel

13.00-13.45 Lunch break

13.45-15.15 **Panel III: The legitimacy of technocratic and evidence-based
governance**

Trym Fjørtoft & Cathrine Holst (both University of Oslo):

**Governance through index-making: a re-assessment of ‘the
measurement obsession’ in gender equality policy**

Atle Haugsgjerd & Stine Hesstvedt (both Institute for Social Research
Oslo):

**The Legitimacy of Expert Decision-Making: Comparing Attitudes
among Bureaucrats, Politicians and Voters**

Discussant: Johan Christensen

15.15-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 **Roundtable: How representative can citizen involvement be?**

Arild Ohren (NTNU & Democratic Society), Juliane Baruck (Demokratie Innovationen e.V. / Das Progressive Zentrum & University of Fine Arts of Hamburg), Rikki Dean (University of Southampton) & Katharina Liesenberg (University of Darmstadt & Social Democratic Party)

19.00 Joint dinner

Friday, March 21

9.00-11.00 **Panel IV: Epistemic injustice**

Eva Schmidt (University of Münster):

Epistemic injustice in deliberative mini-publics

Eva Krick (Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz):

Can democracy heal epistemic injustice?

Aina Landsverk Hagen (Oslo Metropolitan University):

On youth epistemic injustice and practices of hope: The demand for epistemic disobedience, social innovations, and dynamic reflexivity in social science

Discussant: Cathrine Holst

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.45 **Panel V: (In)equality and marginalisation in participatory governance**

Szilvia Nagy (Goethe University Frankfurt) & Rikki Dean (University of Southampton):

Understanding Stakeholder Perspectives on Intersectional Inclusion in Participatory Processes using Q-Method

Szilvia Nagy & Brigitte Geißel (both Goethe University Frankfurt):

Intersectional Policy Co-learning: A Conceptual Framework for Enhanced Equality

Discussant: tba

12.45-13.00 Final round

13.00 Lunch and farewell