

# Participatory democratic institutions: invited spaces and the state

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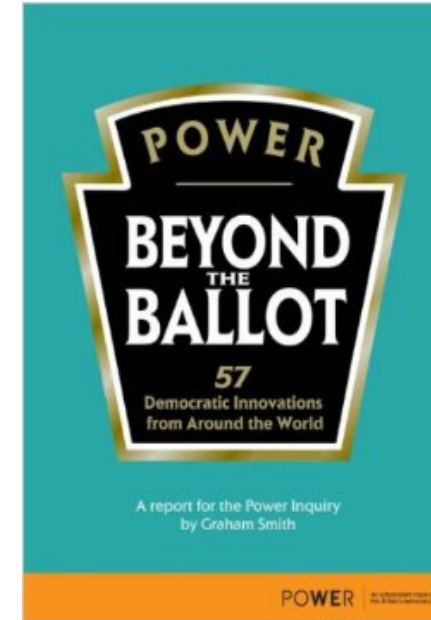
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CENTRE FOR THE  
STUDY OF  
DEMOCRACY

CELEBRATING TWENTY FIVE YEARS

# Definitions – mea culpa!

- ‘Democratic innovations’ as an organising concept a mistake
  - ‘Innovations’ assumes ‘new’ is better
  - Definition only includes invited spaces
- Participatory democratic institutions (PDIs)
  - Institutions can be more or less formal, thus working across claimed/invited spaces



# What we've done well...

- Identifying the range of PDIs organised by or in collaboration with the state
  - Participatory budgeting, mini-publics, direct legislation, etc.
- Understanding how design affects the democratic qualities of PDIs
- Case, small-N comparative and experimental analysis within type
- Evermore sophisticated methods to analyse the 'deliberative qualities' of PDIs

# Not so well...

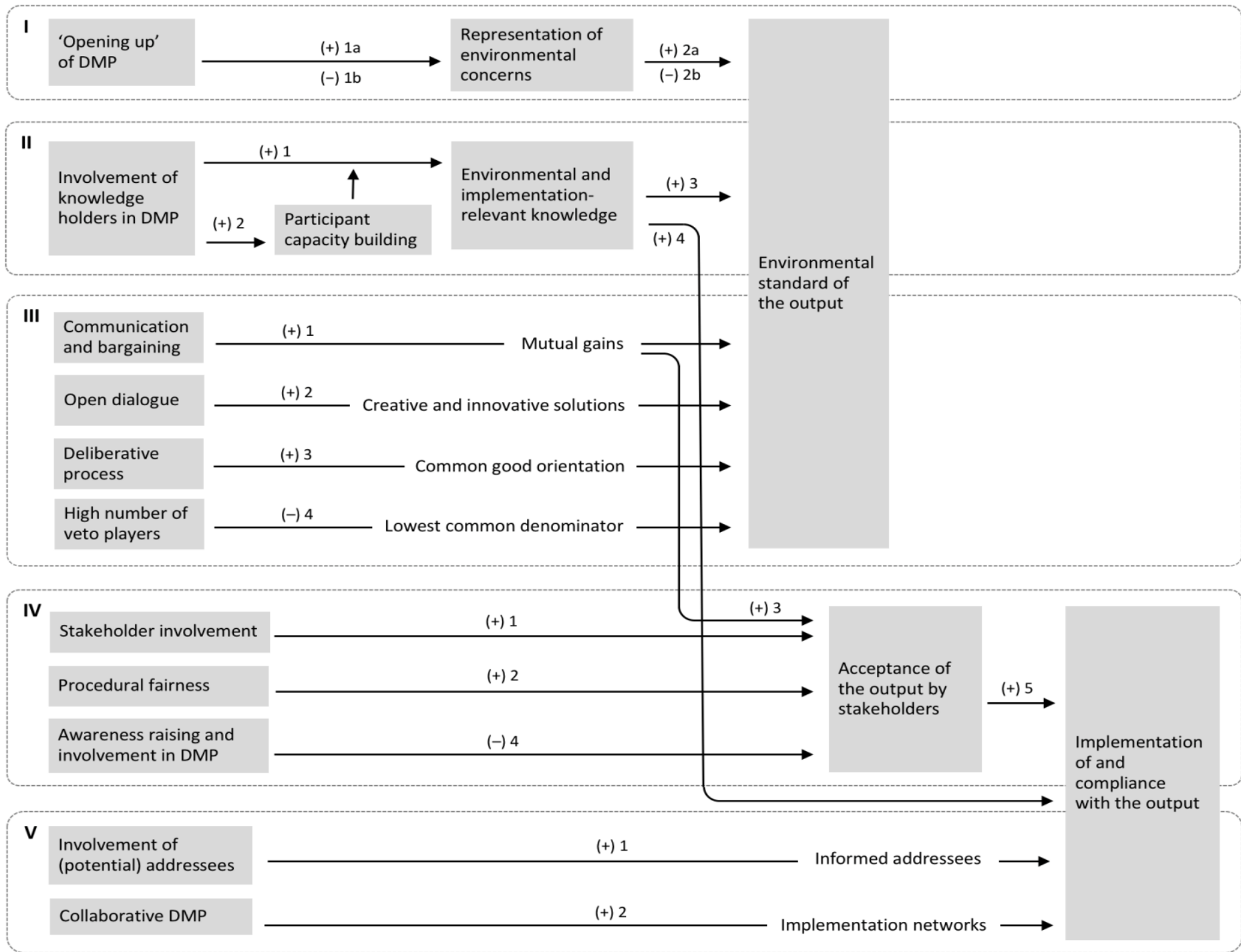
- Understanding the conditions under which PDIs have an impact on political decision making
  - Tendency to focus on exemplary rather than mundane practices
  - Lack of large-N analysis of functioning and impact of PDIs
- Understanding how best to ‘couple’ PDIs with centres of power
- The emergence and impact of the digital
  - What’s out there?
  - Analytical frameworks

# Projects to watch

- Participedia
  - <http://participedia.net/>
  - Global network of research groups (led by UBC and Harvard) aiming to crowdsource qualitative and quantitative data on PDIs
  - Recognition of lack of existing data – shared problem for invited and claimed spaces
  - Currently ~ 700 cases
  - New platform design and data model to be launched later this year...

# Projects to watch

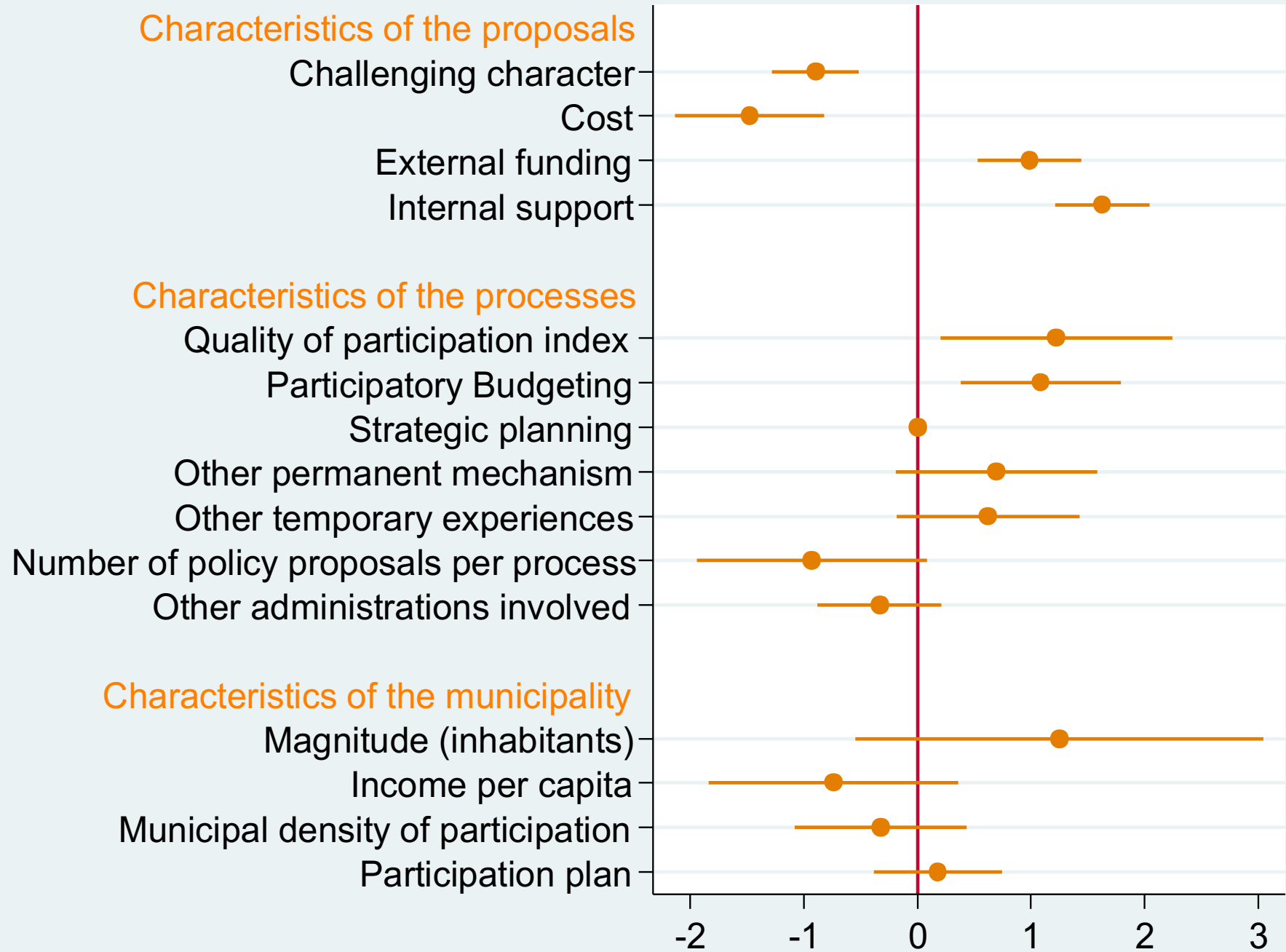
- EDGE project (Evaluating the Delivery of Environmental Governance using an Evidence-based Research Design)
  - Jens Newig (PI)
  - <https://sustainability-governance.net/projects/edge/>
  - Coded 100s of case studies using a theoretical framework that generates context, process and outcome variables
  - Rigorous hypotheses development and testing



# Projects to watch

- Cherrypicking: the results of participatory processes
  - <http://cherrypickingproject.wordpress.com/>
  - Following the fate of over 500 proposals from 39 participatory processes across Spain
  - Do contextual (polity), process design or policy level factors explain the implementation of proposals?





# Conceptual wars

- Deliberative systems
  - Sound critique of tendency to focus on characteristics of PDIs in isolation
  - But ongoing debate on how to conceptualise ‘system’
    - Deliberative system (judged according to deliberative standards) (Mansbridge et al; Dryzek)
    - Or, deliberation within democratic system (Owen and Smith; Warren)
- Moving beyond the deliberative hegemony
  - Contribution of participatory, agonistic and other theories...

But most important....

You are making the future...