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Gap Analysis: Participatory Democracy, Public Expectations and Community Assemblies in Sheffield


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Abstract

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Notes

1. This article focuses upon politically invoked expectation gaps but the impetus for such schisms can emerge from elsewhere. Such causes are not, however, the focus of this article.
2. Whilst other forms of participation can be identified (Fung [2003](#)), deliberative and participatory democracy represent the dominant wings of the literature. This focus is therefore deemed most illustrative, but this does not prevent the future expansion of this framework in line with other conceptions of participation.
3. This approach could also be adapted to focus on more instrumental concerns such as expectations of service delivery in local government but we feel it provides an innovative technique for the analysis of democratic initiatives.
4. It is important to assert that whilst developed with one initiative in mind this approach has far broader application and can be tailored to study other initiatives, be they participative or deliberative in nature.
5. This figure relates purely to the assembly meetings which offered, as noted, limited participat

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