

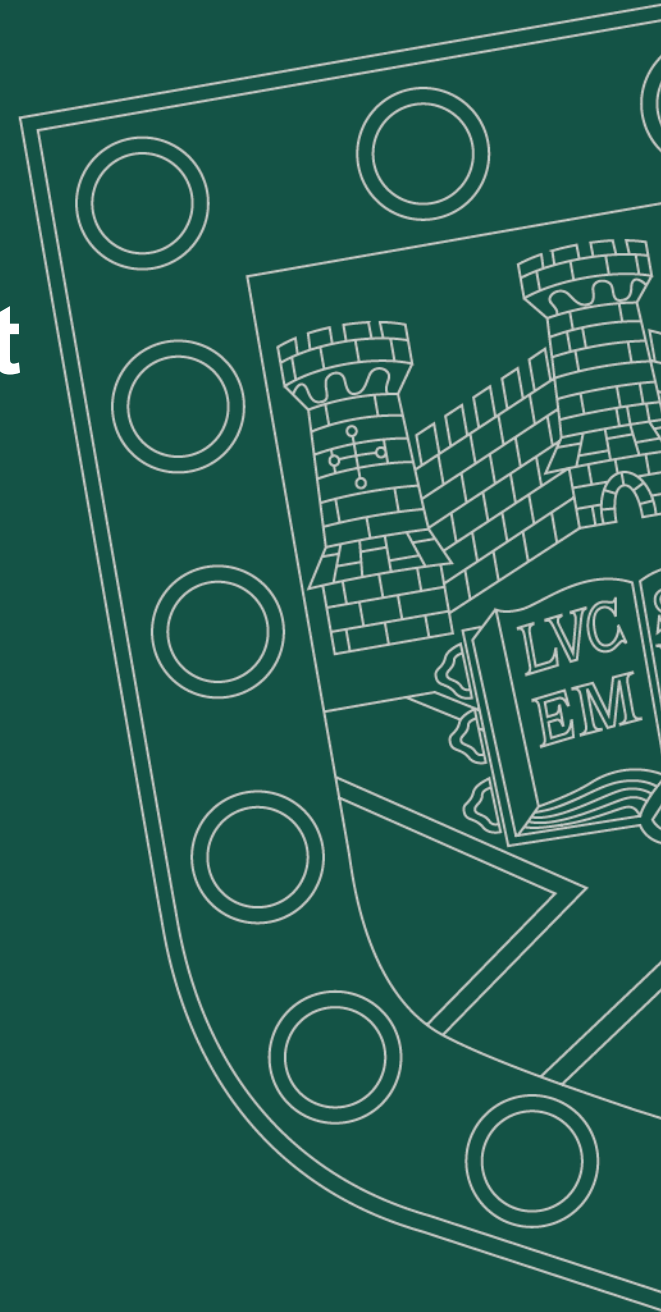


Understanding the Impact of Co-Creation

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SHIFFT project webinar

April 15th 2021



Making an introduction

- Climate change mitigation and sustainable energy transitions
- Integrating insights on 'place' and 'participation' from across the social sciences to inform policy and practice
- Taking an empirical approach - multiple and mixed methods - case studies, fieldwork, national surveys, citizen deliberation
- Transdisciplinary working in collaboration with stakeholders



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Geography

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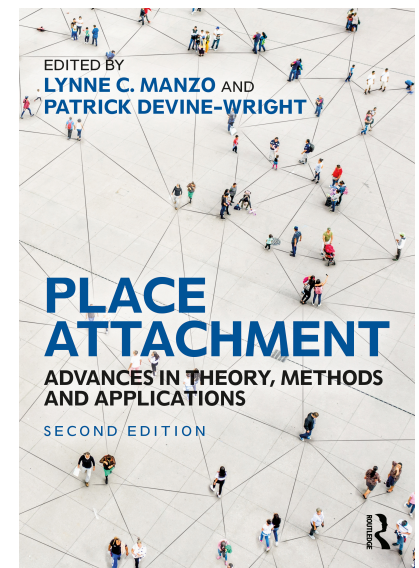
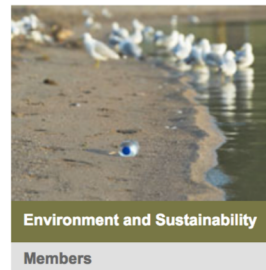
Geography

Environment and Sustainability

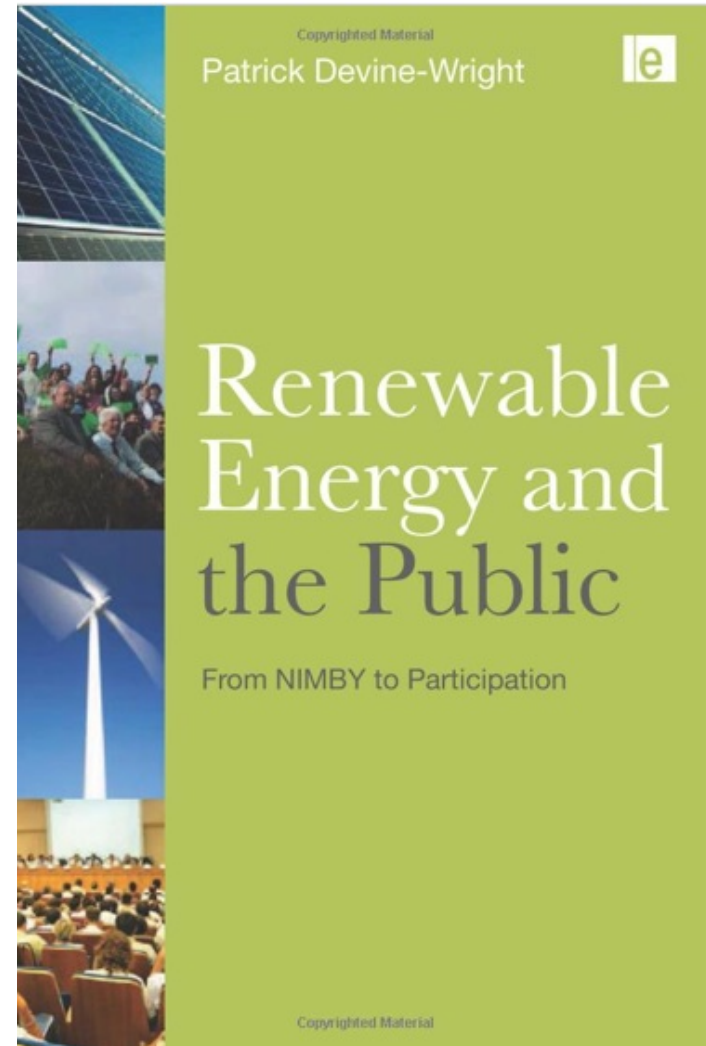
Research themes

1. Limits to climate change adaptation

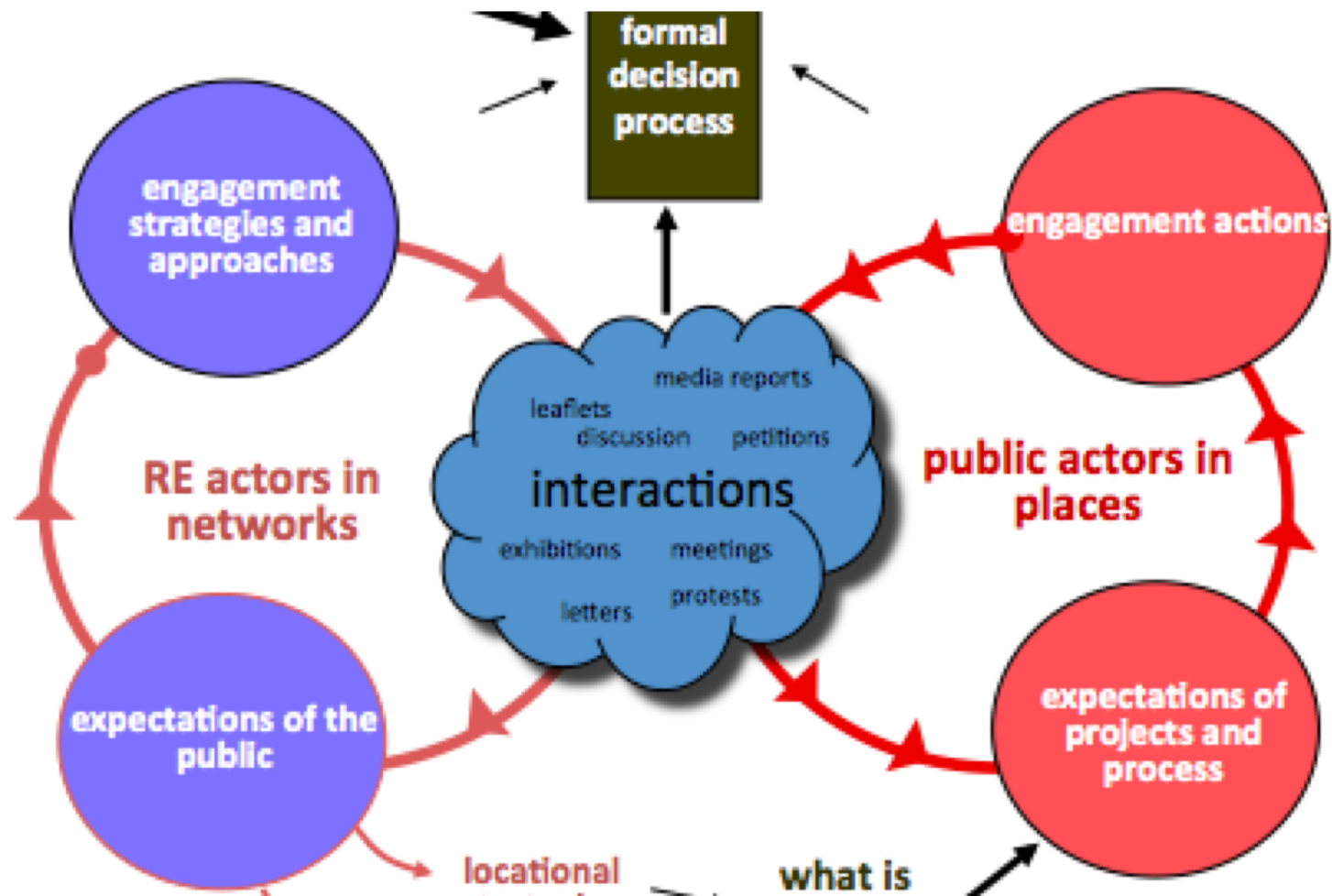
Our research on climate change adaptation has focused upon the theoretical and empirical basis for identifying the limits to climate change adaptation, and has helped underpin new analysis for the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report. Our research on this theme has been funded by a range of institutions, including the European Commission (e.g. the FP7 CLICO project) and the UK Research Councils (e.g. NERC through the Tyndall Centre; ESRC Future Leader Fellowship for Dr. Saffron O'Neill). Outputs linked to this research theme include the book 'Adapting to Climate Change' (Adger, 2009) published by Cambridge



NIMBYism and Participation



Dynamics of public engagement



Source: Walker et al. (2011) Symmetries, expectations, dynamics and contexts: A framework for understanding public engagement with renewable energy projects. In P. Devine-Wright (Ed.) *Public Engagement with Renewable Energy: From NIMBY to Participation*. London: Earthscan, 1-14

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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Why encourage participation?

- Social science research has identified multiple rationales:
 - **Instrumental** – *it's a means to an end (acceptance, fast deployment, grant success)*
 - **Legal compliance** – *it's a legal necessity to do so (box ticking)*
 - **Normative** - *it's the right thing to do*
 - **Substantive** – *it leads to better outcomes*
- What counts as 'success' will vary depending on which rationale underlies activities



"Excellent! So that's passed then. All we need do now is draft the consultation document"

Evidence of substantive benefit

- *“When done well, public participation **improves the quality and legitimacy of a decision and builds the capacity** of all involved to engage in the policy process. It can lead to better results in terms of environmental quality and other social objectives. It can also **enhance trust and understanding among parties**” (National Research Council, 2008:2)*

Multiple positive outcomes

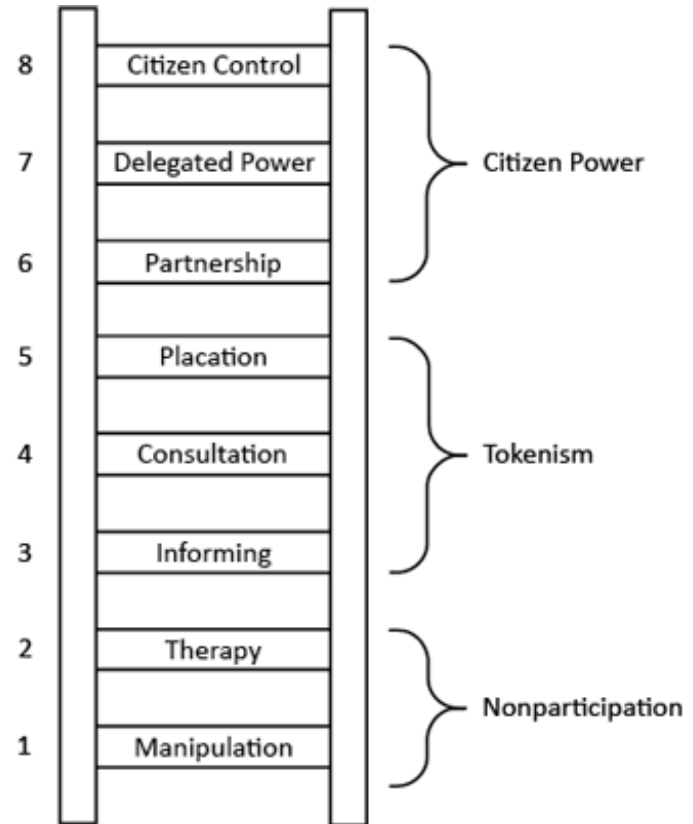
- Increase the diversity of expertise that is drawn upon
 - Mobilising **local knowledge and lay knowledge**
- Build trust and positive relationships with the community and its representatives
- Lead to a greater sense of societal legitimacy for the ‘need case’ for new technologies and services
- Enhance democracy through improving energy or environmental citizenship
- Build capacity and empower communities
- Lead to ‘better’ and fairer technology projects – Just Transitions ...

From Participation to Co-Creation

- The problem of definition and diverse vocabularies
- *Social innovation, co-creation, co-production, volunteering, co-governance, co-management, new governance, co-innovation, collaboration, participatory governance and collaborative governance*
- Focus on the design and delivery of public services
- **Co-creation:** *the involvement of citizens at the co-initiator or co-design level*
- **Co-production:** *activities where both public service providers and citizens contribute to the implementation and/or provision of public services*
- Source: Itten et al. (2019)

Measuring the success of Co-Creation

- ***What difference does it make?***
- Tangible influence on project delivery and outcomes – not tokenism
- *Have citizens been involved at an early stage?*
- *Have local community opinions been identified and taken into account?*
- *In what ways have prior plans been revised in light of local input, concerns and advice?*
- Recognising challenges of prior expectations *and* pandemic constraints/opportunities upon communications and interactions



Thank you

- Itten et al. (2019) WORK PACKAGE 2 DELIVERABLE 2.1.1 STATE-OF-THE-ART REPORT FOR CO-CREATION APPROACHES AND PRACTICES – WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE SUSTAINABLE HEATING TRANSITION. Available here:
<https://shifftproject.eu/publications/>
- See also: Itten et al. (2021) Co-creation as a Social Process for Unlocking Sustainable Heating Transitions in Europe. *Energy Research and Social Science*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.101956>