

**Session 9. Agenda, 10/30/03. Sociology 929. *Envisioning Real Utopias.*
Deepening Democracy**

1. **Relation to Electoral/representative democracy.** Perhaps Representative democracy is more democratic: 8% participation in Porto Alegre is much lower than in ordinary elections. (Stuart, Richard). Perhaps a random jury-like selection for participation might be better than self-selection? (Stuart)
2. **Scope of potential EPG policy domains: ability to generate a broad left agenda.**
 - Are there any principles that identify policy domains suitable for EPG and domains that are not suitable? Are there domains that have the “nonreformist reform” character? (Cesar)
 - Is there any reason to believe that the “practical knowledge” and political learning within EPG will generate the kind of understanding needed for broader progressive transformations of existing society? (Matias)
3. **Morally charged problems.** Can EPG deal with morally-absolute problems – like abortion? (Adam)
4. **Nature of participation/participants.**
 - Can there be too much participation? Can it overwhelm EPG? (Adam)
 - Who can participate in EPG? Only citizens? (Elizabeth)
 - How is participation eligibility decided in EPG settings? What assures that it is fair? (Richard)
5. **Voting.** Procedurally, does EPG generally culminate in majority rule voting? Is deliberation merely “preparatory”? (Patrizia)
6. **Decentralization.** Does the decentralization of EPG potentially threaten the gains from earlier centralized state action? What prevents decentralization for becoming a dismantling of progressive policies? (Richard)
7. **Power inequality problem**
 - Will EPG work only where there are strong PDs present? (Patrizia)
 - Won't the powerful always just exit or avoid EPG if they can't control it? (Patrizia)
8. **Planning.** Who plans the EPG institutions? The control of the design can have dramatic effects. (Linda) Should there be term limits on EPG leadership to prevent an elite from forming? (Linda)
9. **Countervailing power, adversarial power.**
 - How should we understand the relationship between adversarial & countervailing power? Does the former generally prevent the latter? (Patrizia)
 - Are there contexts in which adversarial strategies are more appropriate than cooperative strategies? (Cesar)
 - how can countervailing power operate inside of collaborative decisionmaking? (Chang)
10. **Linguistic competence.** Does inequality in linguistic competence undermine EPG? (Adam) Can people with poor cultural capital really participate effectively in EPG? (Chang)
11. **Institutional security of EPG.** How can EPB be protected against attacks from hostile forces? (Elizabeth)
12. **Cooperation & Deliberation.** What is the relation between these two? Do they necessarily go together? (Cesar)
13. **Deliberation & Interests.**
 - Do the principles of deliberation stifle the expression of self-interest? (Adam)
 - Do rigidly held, pre-given interests impede the possibility of deliberation, particularly when combined with strong economic rationality? (Jay)