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DIGITAL GOVERNMENT I

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Jan 13, 2009

Deliberation: some historical trajectories (Gastil & Keith)

Period	Deliberative trajectory	Key examples / conditions / theorists
Progressive era (1890s-1940)	Expanding	<p>examples: Open forum movement (Federal Forum Project), settlement houses, public panels</p> <p>conditions: growth of continental-scale economy and society; mass immigration & urbanization</p> <p>theorists: John Dewey, Jane Addams</p>
Mid-century 'mass society' (1940s-1960s)	Contracting	<p>examples: decline / abandonment of public consultation models, interest group politics / aggregative models, 'thin' pluralism</p> <p>conditions: Cold War secrecy, McCarthyism, urban restructuring (suburbanization), corporate and government bureaucracies, expertise, think tanks, interest group politics, mass media</p> <p>theorists & critics: Walter Lippmann, C. Wright Mills, David Riesman ('the lonely crowd')</p>
'Deliberative renaissance' (1970s-??)	Expanding	<p>examples: deliberative polling, national issue forums, participatory rule-making, web-based fora and movements (move-on.org)</p> <p>conditions: demassification of media, Internet, globalization & multiculturalism</p> <p>theorists: Jane Mansbridge, Benjamin Barber, Jurgen Habermas, Robert Putnam</p>

Explaining historical change (Gastil & Keith)

- economic and spatial scale & structure
- (exogenous) cultural change
- institutional and political change
- technological infrastructure (information & communication)

Questions:

Weighting & interactional effects?

Causality (causes or correlations?)

(uni)directionality?

Why deliberate? (Button & Ryfe)

- **Legitimacy** – deliberation produces more *legitimate* decisions (improving acceptability, adherence, etc.)
- **Efficacy** – deliberation produces objectively *better* decisions (more sound, rational, based on better information, etc.) (an instrumentalist justification)
- **Learning** – the process of deliberation promotes important kinds of individual and collective learning (incl. preference formation and transformation)
- **Emergence** / public discovery and transformation – the process of deliberation builds and enforces norms and values of civic / public culture (“calls a public into being”)

Limits, pathologies, and challenges (Button & Ryfe)

- The deliberation industry
- Costs (money, time, efficiency)
- Selection, manipulation, and the management of outcomes
- Consultation without power (participation as enrollment)

DG 1 Group Assignment 1:

Consensus Definitions: What is Democracy?

[scribe: moderator: group members:]

Democracy is...

A country is *more* democratic (moves *toward* democracy) to the extent it: (a, b, c, etc.)

A country is *less* democratic (moves *away* from democracy) to the extent it: (a, b, c, etc.)