

**Agenda for Discussion. Sociology 929. Week 3. Participatory Budgets
September 18, 2013.**

1. Viability of PB

- The destruction of Porto Alegre PB in 2004 raises question of viability (Yotaro, Emanuel)
- Is the communicative aspect without the emancipatory/emancipatory aspect a step forward? (Madi)
- Can elites be made to see the empowerment dimension in their interests? (Laura)
- The empowerment dimension of PB – are their degrees/levels of empowerment? (Blix)

2. State/civil society relation in PB & EPG:

- Tension between mobilization and participating in the state? (Tatiana)
- Impact of PB on civil society – politicizing vs depoliticizing tendencies. (Alisa)
- Isn't the state-centered feature part of its political vulnerability? What about strategies completely "outside" the state? (Elsa)

3. Legitimizing function of PB and similar forms of citizen involvement introduced through reform rather than revolution. (Dmytro)

4. EPG model:

- Does EPG really need the centralized coordination function, or can networks across decentralized units accomplish this? (Elsa)
- Tension between the proceduralist focus of EPG and the fairness of the outcomes: does a fair procedure guarantee a fair outcome? (Tatiana)
- How should we understand the problem of unequal power in EPG – don't inequalities in power fatally undermine meaningful democratic deliberation? (Morgul)
- How does EPG solve classic dilemmas of democratic voting? (Jiaqi)

5. Inequalities and Participatory budgeting:

- Are there design features in PB which could facilitate participation by time-constrained people (eg women)? (Taylor)