How to make citizen engagement part of governance reforms?

Alberto Alemanno
HEC Paris – NYU School of Law
LOBBying FOR CHANGE
Find Your Voice To Create A Better Society

ALBERTO ALEMANNO
A Story First....

Professor Paul

Book of the year on migration policy

Only 450 readers...
Activist Jade

Fights for migrants' rights

...policy makers won't listen to her "emotional advocacy"

250,000 members of her Non-profit
Work hard for real-world impact
Difficulty in engaging with academia &
civil society
Hierarchy, tunnel vision...

Public servant John
Skillfull, accomplished, engaged and wants to give back!

Professional Sarah
Thirsty for impact...

Philantropist Jane
How many of you feel the same?

I do.
so knowledgeable

so powerless
paradox
richer
live longer
more educate
less deferential
yet
MARRIAGE EQUALITY
Spectators. Not actors.
Consumers. Not citizens.
yet

we need **citizens** not consumers
The secret of better government? Citizens who complain

democraticaudit.com/2016/12/02/the-secret-of-better-government-citizens-who-complain/
How to fix that?
we can do more...
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF POLICY
the policy space
policy-making

no longer a top-down affaire

but

bottom-up affaire
participatory politics
OECD stats

Involvement of citizens in the policy cycle at sector level

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Health

- Involvement of citizens in the identification of policy priorities
- Involvement of citizens in drafting policies
- Involvement of citizens in the implementation of policies
- Involvement of citizens in providing feedback on how public services work
- Involvement of citizens in evaluating the impact of policies
- Citizens are not involved in the policy cycle
participatory fatigue

participatory cynicism
stakeholders
FOCUS ON THE FEW. NOT THE MANY.
Billionaires who own the same wealth as half the world
And what transport they would fit on

- 388 billion in 2010
- 80 billion in 2014
- 62 billion in 2018

Number of billionaires
Projected number of billionaires
distrust in political system

Percentage of respondents rating it 'essential' (a rating of 10 on a 10-point scale) to 'live in a country that is governed democratically.'

Trust in Institutions Declines

Percent trust in the four institutions of government, business, media, and NGOs, 2016 vs. 2017

Key

2016  2017

Government  Media  Business  NGOs

42  41  48  53  53  52  55  53

-1  -5  -1  -2

Media Declines the Most
not the few to be over-represented but the many to be under-represented
How to move from \textcolor{red}{formal} equality to \textcolor{green}{substantive} equality?
Our Method

= The Good Lobby
citizen lobbying
“Es posible que funcionarios, en contubernio con las empresas, tengan acceso a influir a que ese sistema de espionaje se montara en nosotros”.

-Alejandro Calvillo Unna, fundador y director de El Poder del Consumidor.
Equalize Participation

• opening of parliamentary research services
• skill-sharing and pro bono

• voucher system to contribute to CSOs
• ‘lobbying stimulus’ enabling citizens to contribute a % of their taxes to CSOs
need alternative & complementary unconventional forms of participation channeling citizens’ pluralistic, chaotic input into political conversation to bring us closer to our representatives - and to do so in between elections