

Beyond inclusion: teaching from the perspective of lived experience



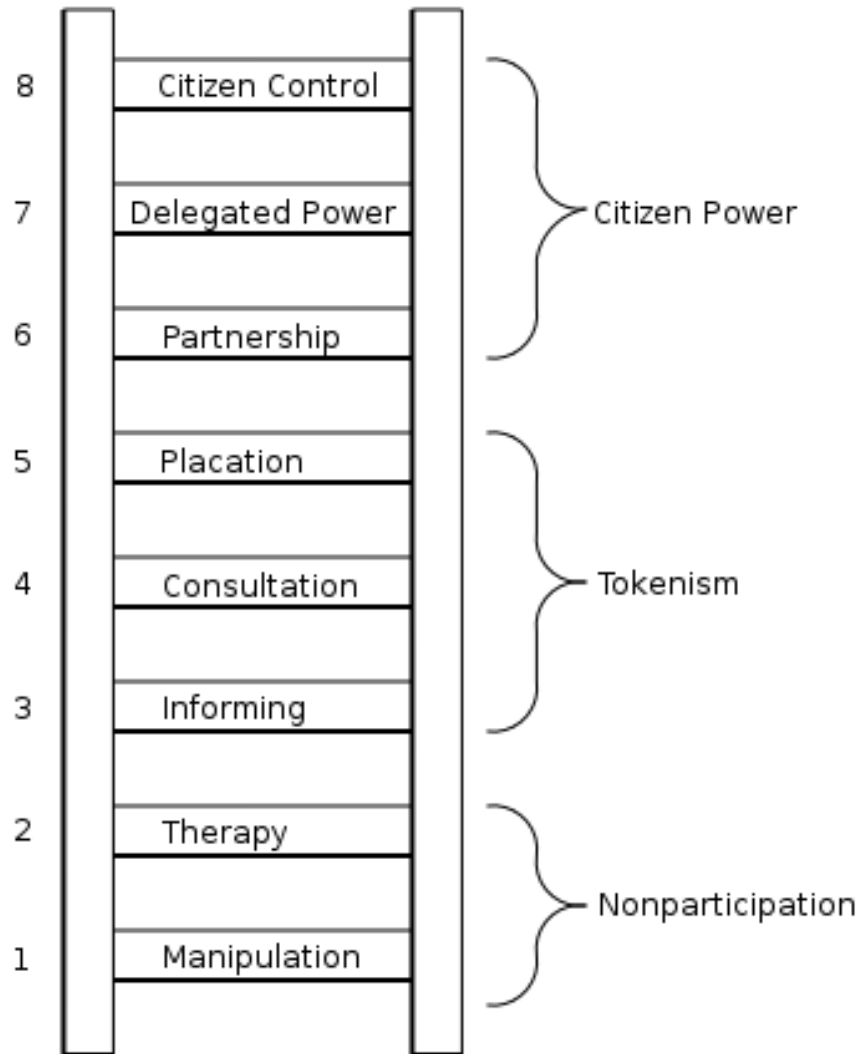
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Grounding my perspective



- 1) Student and staff member with a psych. disability (University of Melbourne)
- 2) PhD candidate in Critical Disability Studies
 - Topic: “Benevolent Othering”
- 3) Resource Coordinator at Our Consumer Place, sessional lecturer in Consumer Perspective & member of Psych Action and Training (PAT) at the University of Melbourne.
- 4) Critical disability studies and critical consumer perspective (aka “mad studies”)

Arnstein's ladder of participation





Arnstein's typology applied to the context of people with disabilities in universities (work in progress)

	Arnstein's term	University context
1	Citizen control	Control of knowledge production &/or power in administrative e.g. Gallaudet University!
2	Delegated Power	Space that is owned by people with disabilities, within a larger power structure e.g. Our Consumer Place, PAT, Critical Disability Studies
3	Partnership	Genuine partnerships in knowledge production &/or administration e.g. Disability student reps (?)
4	Placation	Disabled representatives on committees e.g. Consumer reps on Mental Health Working Group (?)
5	Consultation	University consultations with disabled people e.g. Disability Liaison Unit consultation sessions
6	Informing	University information sessions e.g. Mental Health First Aid(?)
7	Therapy	? e.g. Mental Health First Aid(?)
8	Manipulation	e.g. Participation that is really a rubber-stamping function

Take home to-do list



- **Support students with disabilities (who are interested!) to be able to explore their lived experience within an academic framework.**
 - May involve modifying assessment
 - May be informal (ie may inform their study, not be the focus)
- **Be open to emerging intellectual work in the field of disability (ie. don't be “part of the problem”!)**
- **Work as high on “participation ladder” as you can**

References:



- Merinda Epstein's magnificent website:
www.takver.com/epstein/
- Our Consumer Place:
www.ourconsumerplace.com.au (includes a link to "So, You've got a 'Mental Illness'? ... What now?")
- Arnstein's ladder of participation:
<http://lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation.html>