

Partecipazione, deliberazione e politiche pubbliche: “the only game in town”?

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Participation, Deliberation, and Public Policies: “the only game in town”?

Abstract: Many studies are concerned with policy outcomes of participatory processes promoted by institutions, but many scholars have proposed more wide-ranging theoretical models of interpretation in order to deal with the overall meaning that may be attributed to the very spread of these devices in the context of the transformations of contemporary democracies. In this frame, urban governance acquires a special importance, because the “city”, as a space for social and political relations, escapes from the limits of a sectorial approach concerned with a single sphere of policy, and evokes a peculiar complexity of problem-solving and decision-making processes. This article presents, initially, some introductory definitions of theoretical models of “participatory democracy” and “deliberative democracy”; then, it discusses the terms with which to interpret the spread of participatory models of inspiration deliberative, and finally it analyzes the relationship between these new participatory practices and the sphere of policy-making.

Keywords: Deliberative democracy, Participatory democracy, Participatory governance, Deliberative policy making.

notizie di POLITEIA, XXXI, 117, 2015. ISSN 1128-2401 pp. 80-89