

## **MethodsCon: Futures**

September 12th, 2024 - Manchester, UK

*Skills development session*

Participatory Action-Research and  
Participatory Prospective Analysis:  
Intersections for Just Urban  
Futures

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**Would you like to  
work with your  
research question or  
topic during the  
workshop today?**

If so, write it on a post-it  
note and give it to us.

**Thank you!**

# Purpose

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- Share understandings of the principles of PAR and PPA
- Explore potential connections between PAR and PPA, making space for variations and adjustments to standard practices
- Establish the relevance of participatory processes for the collective exploration of future scenarios, highlighting the value of different ways of knowing for research endeavours
- Identify links and hopefully integrate elements of PAR and PPA into workshop participants' own research or broader work.

# Agenda

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- A bit of theory: principles and values of PAR and PPA
- Work in groups on a research question (could be your own)
- Plenary reflection, gathering insights and take-aways
- Conclusions & wrap-up

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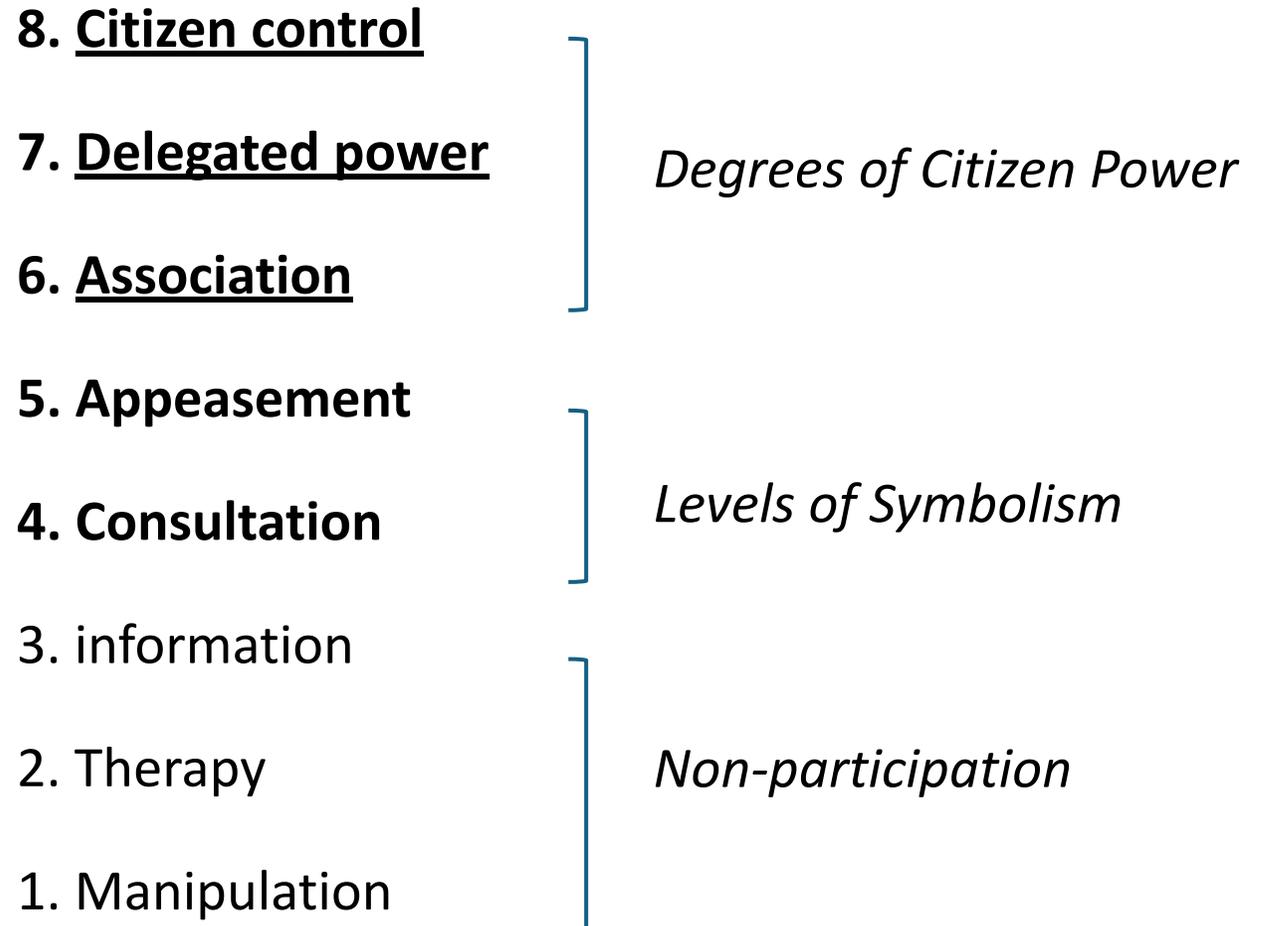
In your experience,  
what does it mean to **participate**?

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# Participation

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- *Contested concept*
- *“About -> With and by”*
- *Idea of power*
- *In public policy and planning - collective doing (e.g. co-production of habitat)*
- *Links with social movements and community-based research*
- *In academia - collective thinking (e.g. knowledge co-production)*



# Participatory Action-Research (PAR)

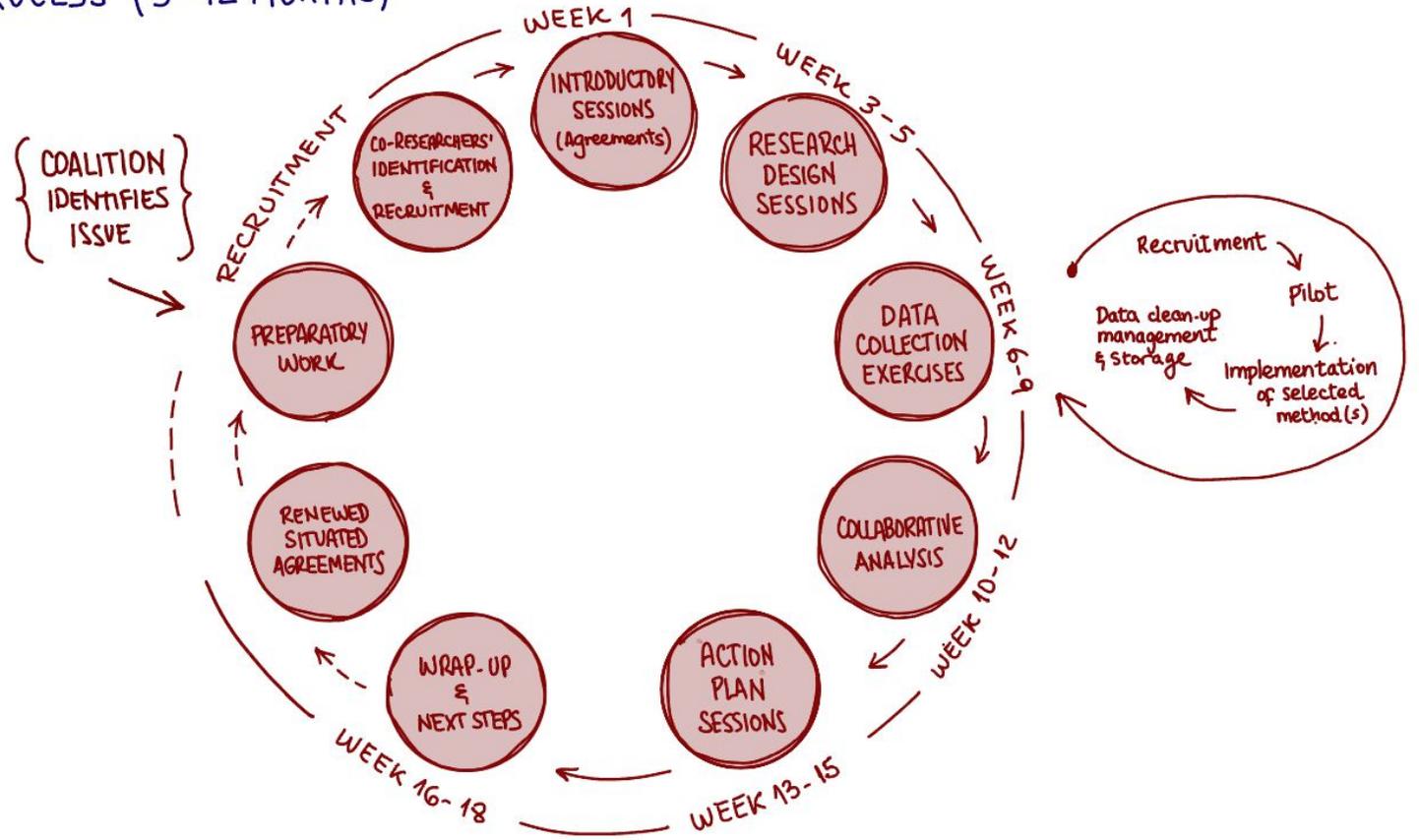
*Foregrounds value of experiential knowledge.*

*Expresses equal validity of different types of knowledge in the research process.*

*Seeks to understand unequal socio-economic structures, to envision and implement alternatives to address problems caused by them.*

*Challenges hegemonic epistemologies.*

SAMPLE PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH PROCESS (9-12 MONTHS)



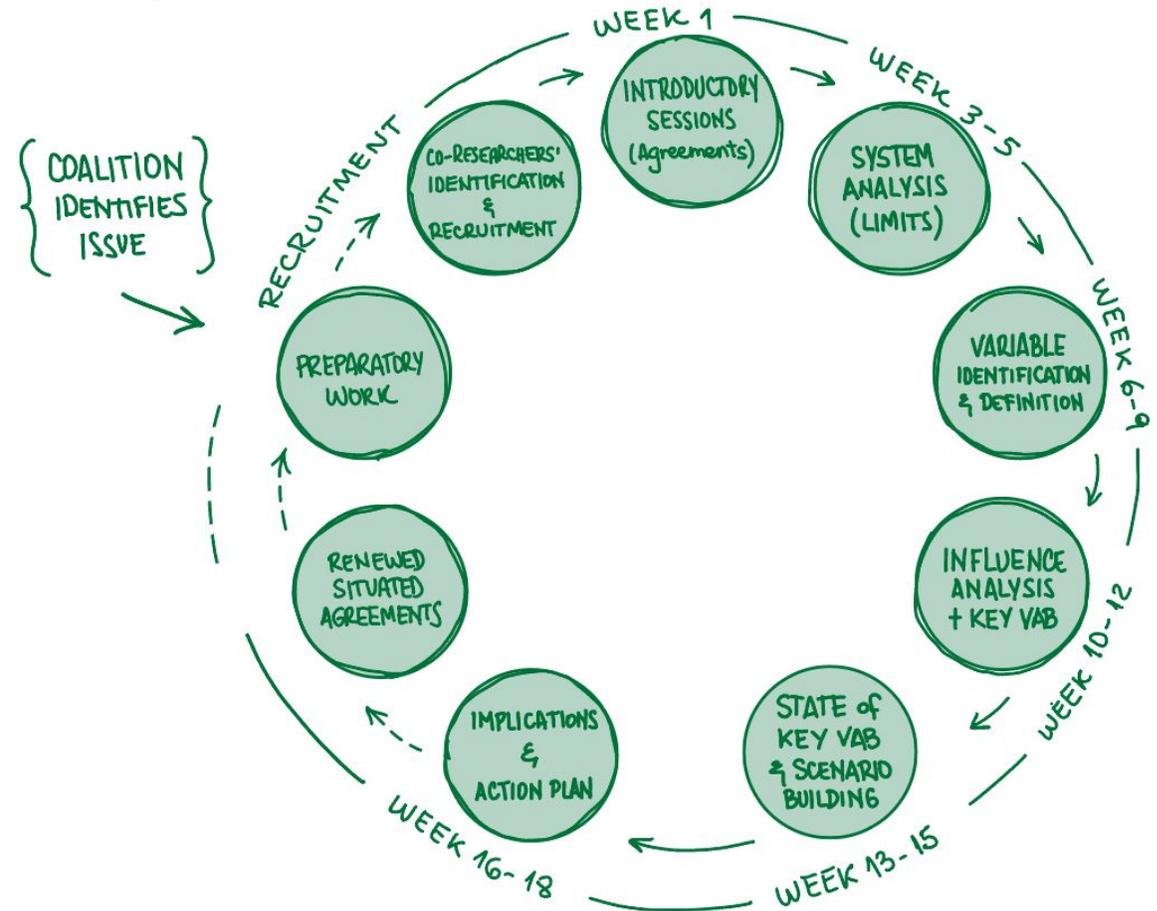
# Participatory Prospective Analysis (PPA)

*Geared towards the exploration of future scenarios.*

*Can be applied to multiple topics in the field of development-related research.*

*Relies on identifying key variables and anticipatory action elucidation.*

SAMPLE PARTICIPATORY PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS PROCESS (9-12 MONTHS)



# Applying ideas to a research question

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**1. What are the main elements of your approach?**

Outline 3-4 key steps or activities, combining elements of PPA and PAR (e.g. In what ways can elements of PPA's system definition and PAR's community-driven problem identification be integrated?)

**2. How is each element operationalised for *real* participation?**

Consider what mechanisms can be put in place to develop methods and processes that are accessible and meaningful to all participants.

**3. Who participates and how?**

Identify strategies to address power imbalances. Consider researchers, stakeholders, participants, communities, etc.

**4. Who decides?**

Reflect on creating space for collective decision-making.

*Consider preparing a visual representation of your proposed process.*

# Online poll

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*Was the workshop helpful?*

*Tell us what insights you gained and whether you would apply PPA and PAR in the future.*

*Want to stay in touch?*

*Leave your email and we will send you this presentation*



<https://www.menti.com/aloeg5k9d9jm>

Code: 6584 0203

# More Resources

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## Participatory Prospective Analysis

- GENDER CGIAR (2020) [Participatory Prospective Analysis to understand the implications of tenure reform scenarios for the forestry sector and communities in forested landscapes.](#)
- Shantiko, Bayuni & Liswanti, Nining & Bourgeois, Robin & Laumonier, Yves. (2021). [Land-use Decisions in Complex Commons: Engaging Multiple Stakeholders through Foresight and Scenario Building in Indonesia. \*Environmental Management\*. 68. 1-23. 10.1007/s00267-021-01470-1.](#)

## Participatory Action Research

- Borda, O. F., Reason, P., & Bradbury, H. (2006). Participatory (action) research in social theory: Origins and challenges. *Handbook of action research: Participative inquiry and practice*, 27-37.

## Participatory Democracy, Planning, Budgeting & Experiences

- ARNSTEIN, Sherry (1969) ['A Ladder of Citizen Participation', in \*Journal of the American Institute of Planners\*, vol. 35, no., pp. 216-224](#)
- PARTICIPEDIA - <https://participedia.net/> (see 'Methods' section)
- International Observatory of Participatory Democracy - <https://oidp.net/en/index.php>
- Participatory Budgeting - <https://oidp.net/es/publication.php?id=1716>  
<https://oidp.net/es/index.php>
- FLACSO PPGA - [Planificación Participativa y Gestión Asociada \(familia de metodologías\)](#) and Poggiese, Héctor (2011) [Planificación participativa y gestión asociada PPGA, Metodologías.](#)

# Session details and abstract

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**Title:** Participatory Prospective Analysis and Participatory Action Research: Intersections for just urban futures

**Date and time:** September 12th, 15:45 - 17:15 (90 min session)

*Participatory Prospective Analysis (PPA) is an approach geared towards the exploration of future scenarios and can be applied to multiple topics in the field of development-related research. Participatory Action Research (PAR) foregrounds the value of experiential knowledge to understand unequal socio-economic structures, and to envision and implement alternatives to address problems caused by them. This session will be a collective hands-on exploration of the connections between PPA and PAR, foregrounding their contributions towards a more epistemically just future. We will focus on the value of integrating multiple ways of knowing into research strategies, particularly those geared towards utilising our collective intelligence in a structured and systemic way to anticipate future scenarios and influence its course. Making space for variations and adjustments to standard PPA and PAR practices, this skills development workshop will focus on the value that can be found at intersection of both methods. It will also emphasise the relevance of establishing equitable participatory processes to develop different elements therein. These will include system, variable and key variable identification, scenario development, and anticipatory action elucidation. Participants will be invited to link elements of their own research and projects to the different elements presented. By the end of this workshop participants will: a) Understand the principles of PAR and PPA, as well as their value for the collective exploration of future scenarios; b) Be able to establish links and hopefully integrate elements of PAR and PPA to their own research or broader work.*