Social Participation in Policymaking: Does it make a difference?

Analyzing the Evolution and Effectiveness of Participatory Institutions in Brazil

April 14, 2013 • 12:30 - 2:00pm
J Building, Room J7-044
WBG HQ, 701 18th Street NW, Washington DC
A light lunch will be provided
Watch the live webcast on Flash or Streaming
Visitors pass: RSVP with name and organization to gpsa@worldbank.org

Since the passing of the 1988 Constitution, a significant development of participatory institutions – formal processes that create opportunities for citizens and social movements to participate in policy decision making, implementation, and evaluation – has been taking place in Brazil. Such “channels”, linking civil society and governmental actors, have been incorporated at the local, state, and national levels of government, sustaining an image of the country as the hotbed of “participatory democracy” in the global south. Yet, are these participatory institutions making a difference? Based on a set of original research projects on the topic conducted in recent years in Brazil, Roberto Pires will (a) analyze the historical evolution of the phenomenon, (b) discuss how different forms of participation function and how they are incorporated into the distinct areas of government activity, and (c) assess contemporary advances as well as challenges to increasing the effectiveness of participatory institutions in policymaking in Brazil. In his presentation, Roberto will touch upon questions such as:

- What is the role and place of participatory institutions in policymaking in contemporary Brazil?
- How such interactions between government officials, citizens, and social movements take place? Under which formats and mechanisms? How are they distributed across policy areas?
- What are the outcomes (expected vs. actual) of social participation?
- To which extent and under what conditions participatory institutions can influence policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation?

**Presenter**
Roberto Pires
Researcher, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

**Discussants**
Tiago Peixoto
Governance Specialist, World Bank Institute

**Chair**
Roby Senderowitsch
Program Manager, GPSA

Pedro Abramovay
Regional Director for Latin America and Caribbean, Open Society Foundations
Roberto Pires
*Researcher, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)*

Roberto Pires is a researcher at the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), a think tank linked to the federal government, based in Brasilia, Brazil. He also teaches at the National School for Public Administration (ENAP). He earned a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology-MIT (2009) and a MA in Political Science from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (2004). Roberto’s research focuses on how bureaucrats (and other government actors) interact with citizens, organized groups, and politicians in the implementation of public policies. He published books and articles about these topics (both in Portuguese and English), as well as papers in leading international academic journals (such as *Politics & Society, Regulation & Governance*).

Tiago Peixoto
*Governance Specialist, World Bank Institute*

Having worked for 10 years as a practitioner and researcher in the field of ICT and participatory governance, Tiago is currently an open government specialist at the ICT4Gov program of WBI’s Open Government cluster. Prior to joining the Bank, Tiago has managed projects and worked as an advisor and consultant for various organizations in the field of participation and technology, such as the European Commission, OECD, the United Nations, and the Brazilian and UK governments. He is also the research coordinator of the Electronic Democracy Centre, a joint venture of the European University Institute, the University of Zurich and the Oxford Internet Institute. Tiago holds a PhD and a Masters in Political Science from the European University Institute, as well as a Masters in Organized Collective Action from Sciences-Po Paris.

Pedro Abramovay
*Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and Director of the Latin America Program, OSF*

Previously, Abramovay held a series of key posts within Brazil’s Ministry of Justice: He was a special adviser to the Minister of Justice from 2004 to 2006, the ministry’s Secretary for Legislative Affairs from 2007 to 2010, and Secretary of Justice from 2010 to 2011. Under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Abramovay helped draft significant pieces of legislation and led a campaign that resulted in the removal of an estimated half-million guns from circulation. He worked on reform of Brazil’s penitentiary system and created a blog-led drafting process for legislation on internet freedom. Abramovay was also a campaign director for Avaaz, leading campaigns against corruption and for the promotion of human rights in Latin America, and was a professor at Fundação Getulio Vargas School of Law in Rio de Janeiro. Abramovay studied law at the University of São Paulo Law School and received an MA in constitutional law from the University of Brasilia.

Roby Senderowitsch
*Program Manager, Global Partnership for Social Accountability*

Roby Senderowitsch currently serves as Program Manager of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA). Previously he served as Country Manager of the World Bank in the Dominican Republic. A graduate of the Johns Hopkins University, his work in the Bank included a strong focus on political economy analysis, building coalitions for change, anti-corruption, and performance based management of public institutions. Before joining the Bank, Roby worked with several NGOs in Argentina and Cuba, where he served as the Field Representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He has been a lecturer in Human Resource management in nonprofit organizations, as well as director of educational programs and community development and human resource management in the private sector. Roby holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Buenos Aires and a series of postgraduate courses at Harvard and Stanford University.