

Public Engagement and its Impact on Parliaments

An international workshop bringing together academics and practitioners

3rd April 2020
UK House of Commons
London

09:00 – 09:30	Registration and coffee
09:30 – 10:15	Welcome and Introduction Edge Watchorn (UK Parliament) & Cristina Leston-Bandeira (University of Leeds)
10:15 – 11:15	Session 1: Reaching varied and new audiences Chair: Aileen Walker (Global Partners Governance) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How can Parliament tackle barriers to public engagement? Danielle Beswick (University of Birmingham) & Naomi Jurczak (UK Parliament)▪ Engaging with vulnerable groups Kevin Davies (National Assembly for Wales)▪ Partial engagement by parliament: how and why do some people get silenced, ignored or excluded? Emma Crewe & Nicholas Sarra (SOAS University, London)▪ Public Engagement in Strengthening Parliamentary Representation and Deepening Democracy Defferew Kebebe Tessema (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
11:15 – 11:45	Refreshments and networking
11:45 – 13:15	Session 2: Transforming public input into political action Chair: Ruth Fox (Hansard Society) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Can the bias associated with public engagement be challenged? Olivier Rozenberg (Science Po University, Paris)▪ The work of the House of Commons Digital Engagement Team Laura Wickens (UK Parliament)▪ Using Brazil's E-cidadania portal to engage with citizens Alisson Bruno Diaz de Queiroz (Senate of Brazil)▪ How do culture, traditions and perceptions constrain public engagement from having an impact Richard Rosengren (Swedish Parliament Research Service)
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch and poster exhibition
14:30 – 15:30	Breakout session 1
15:30 – 16:00	Refreshments and networking
16:00 – 17:00	Breakout session 2
17:00 – 17:30	Summary, questions, and launch of network Cristina Leston-Bandeira (University of Leeds) & Laura Evans (Nifty Fox Creative)
17:30 – 18:30	Tour of the Palace of Westminster

Breakout Sessions

<p>Implementing online deliberative methods of engagement</p> <p>Andreas Nitsche, LiquidFeedback, Germany</p>	<p>The success of an online participation system depends not only on the functionality of the software, but also on the overall participation process including its proper embedding into administrative processes. In this session, Andreas will introduce the online platform LiquidFeedback, which helps develop credible propositions in an integrated deliberation and voting process. He will give his take on typical challenges of civic participation, and provide examples of how lawmakers and/or an administration can address these in creative ways to establish widely accepted participation infrastructures.</p>
<p>Exploring when deliberative methods of engagement work best</p> <p>Sarah Allan, Involve</p>	<p>This session will explore various deliberative engagement methods such as citizens assemblies, to reflect on when this type of method is most suitable. Through interactive work it will invite participants to explore how to commission engagement internally and externally, and how to evaluate if an appropriate method is being suggested.</p>
<p>Capturing lived experiences</p> <p>Anne-Marie Griffiths & Libby McEnhill, UK Parliament</p>	<p>This session will explore how to capture the experiences of public(s), to ensure they inform parliamentary decisions. It will focus specifically on vulnerable groups and those not always easy to reach out to. Using recent examples and interactive methods, the session will encourage participants to identify specific hard-to-reach groups and how they could make sure to capture the experiences of those groups to inform parliamentary business.</p>
<p>Rising to the challenge of Measuring Community Engagement with Parliamentary Law Making</p> <p>Dr Sarah Moulds, University of South Australia</p>	<p>This breakout session aims to confront the methodological challenges associated with seeking to measure the value or impact of community engagement with parliamentary law making in Westminster-inspired Parliaments. The session is designed to encourage participants to share their own experiences of researching the role the community plays in parliamentary law-making, with a view to identifying some common features of best practice and/or pitfalls to avoid.</p>
<p>Making change happen – the elephant in the room</p> <p>Gillian Baxendine & Sally Coyne, Scottish Parliament</p>	<p>We all have plenty of ideas about what we would like to do differently or try innovatively – but how do we actually introduce changes to others in ways that work and that stick? In this interactive break-out session, engagement practitioners from the Scottish Parliament will give some examples of strategies and approaches the Parliament has used to improve the way we do engagement. Participants will be invited to reflect on the barriers to change in themselves and the organisations they work with and identify the next steps they could take.</p>
<p>How e-petitions can enhance parliamentary public engagement</p> <p>Emma McIntosh, UK Parliament</p>	<p>E-petitions have become very popular with the public. But parliaments do not always seize the opportunities these give to enhance parliamentary business and public engagement. Through the use of examples from the House of Commons' e-petitions system, this session will invite participants to think creatively about how e-petitions can enhance both parliamentary decisions and public engagement with parliament.</p>

**Establishing ongoing
conversations with the public:
lessons from local democracy**

Carl Whistlecraft & Rachel
Spencer-Henshall, Kirklees
Council

This breakout session will draw from the very rich experience of the Kirklees Council in public engagement and explore how ongoing conversations can be kept with different publics, to support decision-making. It will introduce the use of Place Standard to discuss regeneration of the town centre of Huddersfield, to then encourage participants to think of ways in which they could employ this strategy into their own practice.