

**TPAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAN FRANCISCO 3 – 5 JUNE 2013**

**CO-PRODUCING THE CURRICULUM :
CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND
CONFLICT ?**

**Professor John Diamond, Business School
Edge Hill University, UK**

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Co-Producing the Curriculum : Challenges, Opportunities and Conflict ?

1. Co-creating and co-producing a curriculum – negotiating meanings
2. Civil Society and Civic Leadership – The politics of co-production
3. Drawing the NGO sector in
4. Negotiating Roles and Processes : Points of Conflict and Reflection

Co-Producing the Curriculum : Challenges, Opportunities and Conflict ?

CO-CREATING / CO-PRODUCING A CURRICULUM - NEGOTIATING MEANINGS:

- Curriculum development for a NGO leadership programme - negotiating values, rationale and content;
- Contradictions and Tensions within a "leadership" programme for the NGO and a model of practice which claims to be participatory and reflective;
- Defining and agreeing core values which underpin the teaching and learning and which are then negotiated and agreed with accrediting and validating bodies as well as with participants;
- Learning from that experience to draw participants into their own practice and experiences

Co-Producing the Curriculum : Challenges, Opportunities and Conflict ?

CONTEXT

CIVIL SOCIETY AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP: THE POLITICS OF CO-PRODUCTION?

- Tensions between "activists" and the activism tradition - political activism through housing and tenants struggles and the sponsorship and promotion of leaders through the state or quasi state agencies;
- Activist tradition draws upon ideas of collectivity and community and the alternative model promotes individualism and "specialness";
- Over past 20 years the impact of neo-liberalism has been to accentuate the individualistic model and marginalise the collective (DeFillippis et al 2010; Harvey 2010);
- City Hall / NGOs v. Community based networks or groups

Co-Producing the Curriculum : Challenges, Opportunities and Conflict ?

CONTEXT : DRAWING NGO SECTOR IN....

- NGO sector in UK seen by both the New Right (in the 1980s) and New Labour (post 1997) as necessary to legitimise and validate their social and economic policies;
- NGO- too diverse in geography and scale to define precisely but shared analysis that sector lacked "leadership" capacity and skills;
- New Right / New Labour reform programmes needed the NGO to act as "providers" of services as well as referral agencies to public sector services:
- Contracting and Commissioning highlighted "gaps" in skills, knowledge, understanding and capacity across range of elements from managing information to governance and decision making
- Investment by New Right and New Labour in the development of a NGO architecture / infrastructure to "professionalise" not the activists but those appointed to manage the programmes which support the activists

NEGOTIATING ROLES AND PROCESSES: POINTS OF CONFLICT AND REFLECTION –

- **Promoting continuing professional development;**
- **Cultivating the reflective practitioner;**
- **Changing and Challenging ways of working - cross boundary;**
- **Highlighting inter-relationship of practice to social, political and economic questions**

(Bradbury et al 2010; Claxton 2006; Hathaway et al 2010; Raine et al 2013; Rush 2012; Tsisis et al 2013; Whitchurch 2008; Zeicher 2010