

DELIBERATIVE MODEL OF GOVERNANCE

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Summary:

This work examines some of the challenges to the inclusion of emotions, self-interests, and expertise into public deliberation. Its goal is to synthesise these latest developments in the deliberative theory – most notably the systemic turn it experienced.

Drawing from a design of the British Food Standards Agency (as an example of deliberative governance), I find that the selection of stakeholders involved in its proceedings was aimed at inclusion of three essential inputs into the deliberation: expertise (scientists), self-interests (of food producers), and intense emotions (of consumers). This design is supported by a recent rehabilitation of emotions and self-interests within the deliberative theory and takes into consideration certain valid reservation towards expertise in the public discourse. Following this, I will analyse cases from Polish health policy-making and related public debate to identify challenges to the deliberative consideration of the three inputs: (a) 2014 radio discussion on mandatory vaccination of children; (b) 2016 nurses' strike in Child Health Centre in Warsaw, and (c) 2015 Senate debate over mandatory bicycle helmet use.

Analysed cases will indicate that there are three basic kinds of barriers to the deliberative democratic inclusion of emotions, self-interests, with expertise. It is not only (1) a narrow focus only on selected particular input that neglects public reason; but also (2) instrumentalization of inputs; and (3) a too demanding perception of public reason that leads to the suppression of legitimate particular inputs.