

## Democratic planning processes for diversity, difference and minorities

### Procesos de planificación democrática para la diversidad, la diferencia y las minorías

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**Resumen.** This paper explores democratic planning in its various forms and conflicts as an attempt to suggest possible ways to exercise it in today's contemporary context. Democracy can be an ambiguous term, characterized by equity or equality or both. This ambiguity can also be found on the scope of its implementation. The main disagreement among scholars advocating for "democratic planning", is whether democracy should be inherent in the decision-making process or in the outcomes which are product of that process. This work articulately distinguishes planners, like Paul Davidoff, who emphasize process from others, like Hounchell, who emphasize outcomes and notes the strengths and shortcomings of both. It uses three case studies, which bring up real examples of many of the dilemmas of practical democratic planning, as part of the analysis that will lead to solid conclusions on how to exercise democratic planning in a contemporary metropolis characterized by diversity, difference and the growing presence of minorities.

**Palabras clave.** Democracy, equity, decision-making, diversity.

**Abstract.** El texto explora la planificación democrática en sus diversas formas y conflictos como un intento de sugerir posibles formas de ejercerla en el contexto contemporáneo. Democracia puede ser un concepto ambiguo, caracterizado por la equidad, la igualdad o ambos. Esta ambigüedad puede encontrarse también en el horizonte de su implementación. El principal desacuerdo entre los académicos que defienden la "planificación democrática" es si la democracia debería ser inherente al proceso de toma de decisiones o a los resultados a los que da lugar dicho proceso. Este trabajo distingue de manera articulada entre varios planificadores, tal como Paul Davidoff, quien destaca los resultados y aspectos fortalezas/débiles, así como los pasos que se encuentran en ambos. Utiliza tres estudios de caso que ofrecen ejemplos concretos de muchos de los dilemas de la práctica de la planificación democrática como parte de un análisis que conducirá a conclusiones sólidas sobre cómo ejercerla en las metrópolis contemporáneas, caracterizadas por la diversidad, la diferencia y la presencia creciente de las minorías.

**Keywords.** Democracy, equity, decision-making, diversity.

## Introduction

–What can democracy mean in relation to planning?–

The Indian Amartya Sen (Nobel in Economic Sciences) has argued the basic principle of democracy is the ability of citizens to guide public policy's direction. Beyond political representation and respect for the rule of the majority, it implies protection of rights and freedom of all individuals, access to social benefits, and right to access information and to participate actively in collective deliberation. On the same line as Cornelius Castoriadis and his classical distinction between democracy as regime and democracy as procedure, Charles Lindblom (1977) gives another interesting definition of democracy. He quotes Robert A. Dahl (1971): *"The key characteristic of a democracy is the continuing responsiveness of the government to the preferences of its citizens"* (Lindblom, 1977, p. 250). All of these authors emphasize the need of societies to legitimize their laws and to explain why they should be morally fair and right.

This essay explores democratic planning in its various forms and conflicts as an attempt to suggest possible ways to exercise it in today's contemporary context. I will use the term 'democracy' to refer to a particular way of group decision-making or deliberation in planning

# Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference

**Judd E. Hollander**



## **Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference:**

This book delves into Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference. Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference is a crucial topic that must be grasped by everyone, from students and scholars to the general public. The book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

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  5. In chapter 4, the author will scrutinize the relevance of Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference in specific contexts. This chapter will explore how Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference is applied in specialized fields, such as education, business, and technology.
  6. In chapter 5, the author will draw a conclusion about Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference. This chapter will summarize the key points that have been discussed throughout the book.
- This book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. It is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of Planning For Diversity Policy And Planning In A World Of Difference.

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