

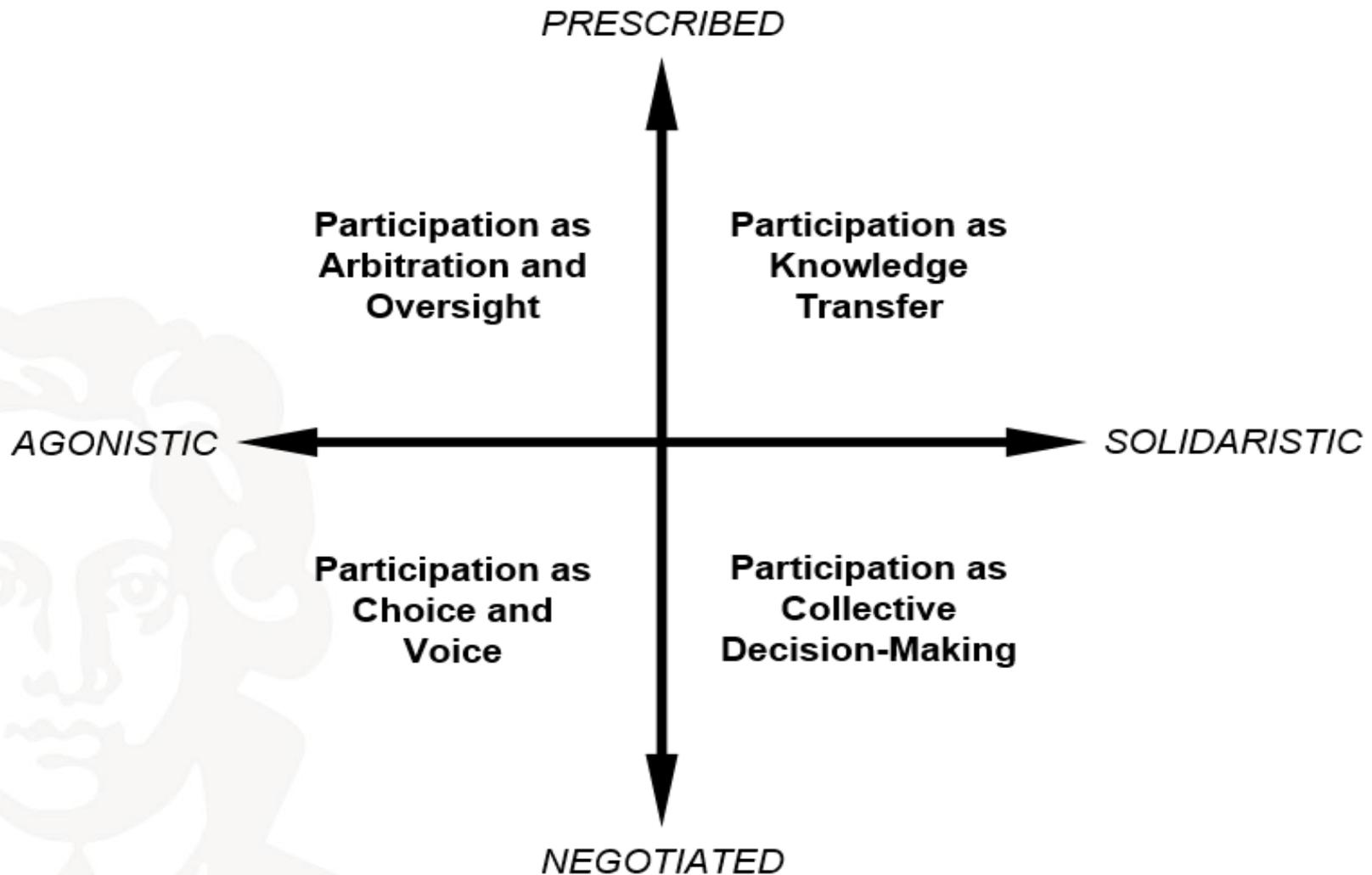
# Poverty and Participation

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Goethe University Frankfurt

CASE, London School of Economics, 16 November 2018

# Four modes of participation



## Participation as Knowledge Transfer

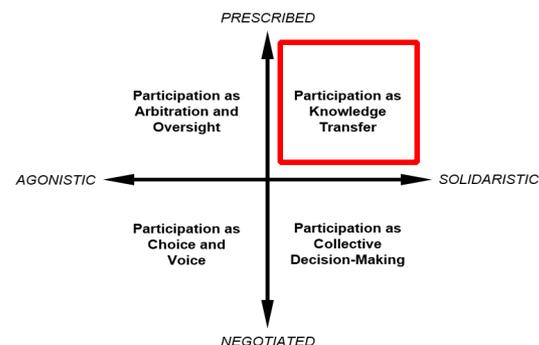
Public involvement contributes to evidence based policy-making. But it is only one source of evidence. The advice and decisions of policy makers will involve balancing evidence from a wide range of sources, including existing and new research; economic modelling; regulatory impact assessments; evaluation and scientific, technical and expert advice. (Cabinet Office)

Policy official as neutral technocrat

Participant as 'lay expert'

Low risk for policy officials

High trust for participants



## When Knowledge Transfer Breaks Down

“Because anything that they would enable or set up is going to be a load of crap and they're not going to listen to it anyway, so you've got to, you know if you want to--with a government like this, if you want to have a voice, or have power, you've got to be an activist and a campaigner and you've got to take a fight to them, basically, in whatever way you can. But that's not necessarily the case, probably, for all areas of decision-making or policy. This is just my experience of the DWP.”

**Celia**

“So they [the DWP] wouldn't want to be seen to be fighting poverty and challenging stigma, because it's against their--you understand what I mean? Their, it's them that's the cause, so you know.”

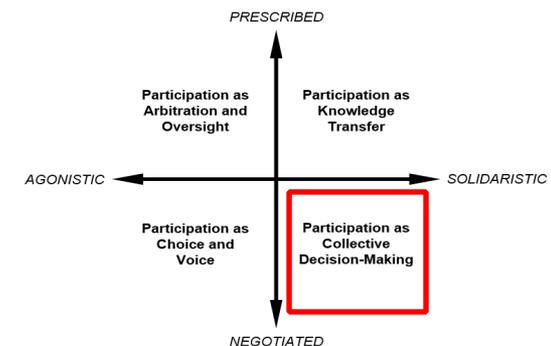
**Carly**

# Participation as Collective Decision-Making

Policy officials and participants as equals in collaborative partnership, with equal power to:

- Set the agenda
- Shape the policy
- Take decisions

Specific roles (including leadership) negotiated.



## When Collective Decision-Making Breaks Down

I don't know if... Because they come along to the meetings, and you know, we've got the leader of the council chairing it with me. Do they almost feel compelled to come because it's the leader of the council? You know, do they really want to be there, or are they just doing what the boss was saying? I've noticed that even if I'm going through the agenda item, there isn't eye contact with me. It's the leader who's being addressed....And it's just like, what, I'm supposed, I'm sitting here right next to him, I'm supposed to be the co-chair, but I'm not getting noticed. This is what I mean by, although they're coming along to the table, we're supposed to be sitting side by side, does that really, genuinely happen?

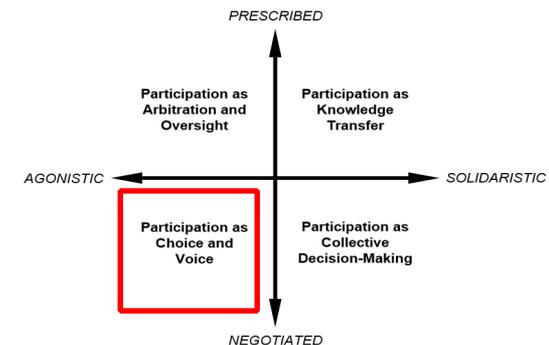
**Gabriella**

# Participation as Choice and Voice

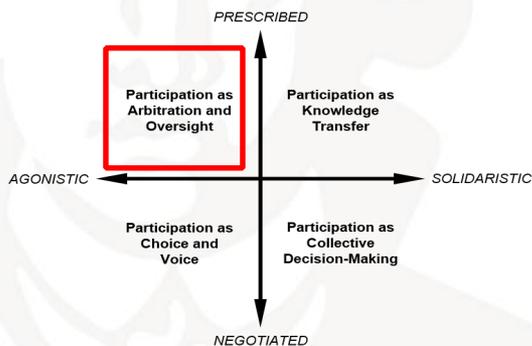
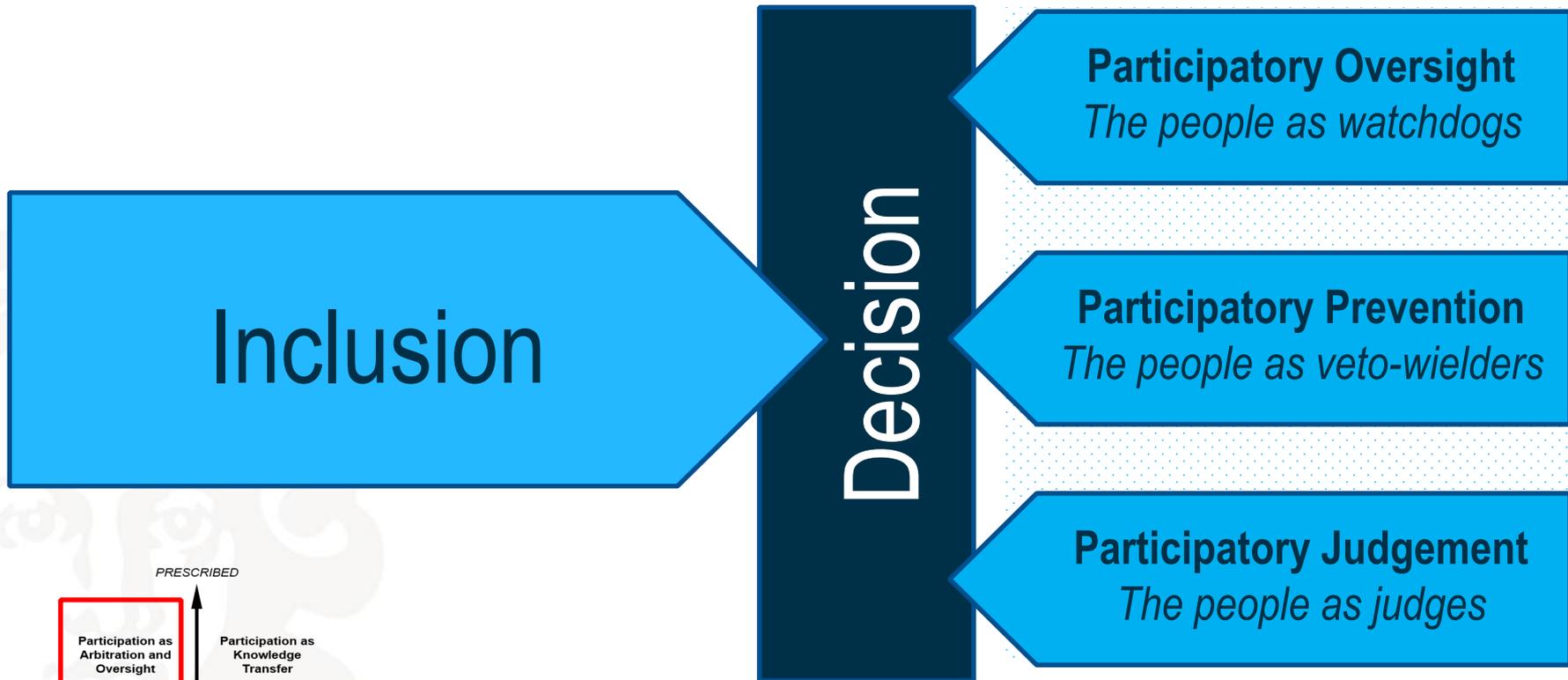
Participant as empowered consumer

Policy official as service provider

Individualised relationship based on satisfying participant's preferences



# Participation as Arbitration and Oversight



## Five questions to ask yourself when doing participation...

What is the primary objective? Is it for instance, information collection, empowerment or accountability?

How do you see your role in the participation process?

How do you see the role of the 'other' (e.g. policy official / participant)?

How does the 'other' see their role?

How do they see you?