

**CONSENSUS THEORY
SENSUOUS
POSSIBILITIES**

MY EDUCATIONAL THEORY

- **We are all learners and teachers!**
- **Popular education**
 - (experience and dialogue)
- **Traditional methods: Base line of understanding**
- **My responsibilities: Legible, relevant, actionable**

RELEVANCY

- Leadership development outside elite circles
- Prefiguration
- Skill building



SENSUOUS POSSIBILITIES

- **Ghosted trajectories of Occupy**
 - **Gaining ever more power across ever more (new) institutions**
- **Counter or Dual Power**
- **Self help**

LIMITS

- Groups larger than...
- Vulnerable
- Cumbersome
- Not the only (participatory) decision-making model
 - Size, needs, styles of group determine most effective model
 - Holocracy, spokescouncil, modified consensus

**THEORY: “IF
SOMETHING AFFECTS
YOU, YOU SHOULD
HAVE A SAY IN THE
OUTCOME”**

(Bray
2013, 80)

MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

- “It just made sense that if a handful of people in the group were upset, that we would try to work things out so we wouldn’t lose them” (Bray 2013, 81).



MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE SOLIDARITY

“Because you need to count on other people putting their bodies on the line with you. Giving people a stake in the decision gives them a stake in the success of the action and in the survival of the group” (Tom Hayden, SDS member, in Polletta 2002, 2)

MAXIMIZING PERSONAL FREEDOM

- **Cindy Milstein, Anarchism and Its Aspirations**
- **The “Block” under two conditions**
 - Violation of values
 - Prevent an individual from association with group
- **Stand aside**
- **Voluntary association**

THEORY

- Majoritarian vs Consensus Democracy

A or B ?

A and B

MOVEMENT BUILDING CAPACITY

- Freedom is an Endless Meeting Francesca Polletta (2002)
 - movement building capacity of participatory democracy
 - 100 years and seven movements in the U.S.
- PD, “can help activists build solidarity, innovate tactically, secure the leverage of political opinion, and develop enduring mechanisms of political accountability” (viii).

MUTUAL AID AND COOPERATION

- **Mutual-aid, Cooperation**
 - Anarchist and biologist Peter Kropotkin observed that cooperative species are more successful species
 - By increasing our cooperation, we increase our political, economic, social and cultural strength...
Fuerte Juntos
 - Elites have organized money. We have organized people

AND FINALLY, A DEFINITION

Consensus: A decision-making process that reconciles multiple, often divergent points of view to create a decision amenable to all, and ideally stronger than either/or.

SOURCES

- Bray, M. (2013). *Translating anarchy: The anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*. Zero Books: UK
- Kropotkin, P. *Mutual Aid*.
- Milstein, C. (2010). *Anarchism and its aspirations*. AK Press: Oakland, CA.
- Poletta, F. (2002) *Freedom is an endless meeting: Democracy in American social movements*. University of Chicago Press: Chicago

DISCUSSION