# An Analysis of Six Power Ladders, Wheels, and Progressions

**Date and time**
Wed 24th Jun 2020, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm PDT

*"Join Us"*

Co-creating our future stories of Hope & Action

A "glocal" Asset & Strengths Based (un)Conference

June 24-25 2020

HOSTED BY GLOBAL ASSET & STRENGTHS BASED PRACTITONERS

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**Name of person who took the notes:**
**Email of notetaker:**
Please return these notes to: ivis.garcia@utah.edu

**Capturing the learning:**
1. Take a screen shot of your group
2. Write down the names of people:
   ○ Jess Wyatt, Baltimore USA- ABCD faculty
   ○ Jess Popp Cape breton- work with Cody institute
   ○ REn Thomas- Halifax- prof at Dalhousie
   ○
3. Discuss the ladders – Leave black the 3 you do not discuss (see below one ladder per page)
4. Overall reflection questions (if you have more time in your session)

   ○ What were some of the stories and experiences shared?


   ○ What were the key themes that emerged from these experiences?
   • Who uses them – Community groups, for designing, for leadership/decision-makers
   • Some used more for teaching then practice.
   • What is the purpose of the tools?  They describe what we are doing and make us feel good.
   • Do they reflect wider governance concerns


   ○ What was your most significant learning from this session and why?

- Was there anything that surprised or challenged you?

**5. Sherry Arnstein's "Ladder of Citizen Participation**

- What is its history?

Is used by group in the classroom. Language of this is hard for students, it serves as a landmark for the history of participation.

Arnstein not a planner, did work with HUD but background in

- How it has been used by participants?

Can use it to be accountable – can ask ourselves are we placating?

- What is great about the ladder?

Historical significance. Groundbreaking and resonance over time.

Citizen as the focus--

- What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

Of its time—limited – implies hierarchical process being on a step.

**6. South Lanarkshire Council's "Wheel of Participation"**
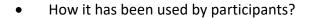
- What is its history?

We are unfamiliar with this.

- How it has been used by participants?

- What is great about the ladder?

Very simple—just four parts, moves away from the linear to a cyclical nature.

- What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

7. **The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) "Public Participation Spectrum"**

- What is its history?

Developed by practitioners

- How it has been used by participants?

- What is great about the ladder?

Transparent on what amount of power/what role is being given to participants.

While "inform" looks bad – or lacking it is sometimes the right thing

- What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

System maintaining – used by the ones designing the process.

8.  **The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute's "Citizen Power Ladder" developed by Jody Kretzmann and John McKnight**

In general we are new to these models.

- What is its history?

- How it has been used by participants?

- What is great about the ladder?

Problem with language of "victim."
AS being an individual change, as being a producer, gets more than "illusion of inclusion."

- What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

Language is an issue—"client" term

9.  **Deborah Puntenney's "Resident Power Progression"**

- What is its history?

- How it has been used by participants?

- What is great about the ladder?

- What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?
  ○ Seems passive
  ○ Does not use trauma-informed approach – as an example, filling out surveys is a taking and can be too much. Would like to see better language from trauma-informed approach. Being defined by need is de-humanizing – so language matters.
  ○ ABCD is a good step.
  ○ Questions on how these actions are realistic for people to undertake, do these ask too much of individuals.
  ○ Arnstein is about direct conflict – more raw and real.

- ○ Presupposes that once you are an advocate – you are not a client—no longer eligible for assistance.  If you are a client, than you can't help.  You are one or the other—not true, e.g. Moms4Housing in Oakland CA.
- ○ Aspirational hierarchy – you don't want to be at the lowest level.
- ○ There are no values –it is a description only.  Could be self-interest.


10. **"Residents and their Associations: A Power Ladder" Jody Kretzmann, John McKnight, Sarah Dobrowolski, and Deborah Puntenney**

- What is its history?

- How it has been used by participants?

- What is great about the ladder?

- What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?