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Hybrid forums - *From hybrid forum to hybrid forum 2.0.*

Virginie Amilien

SIFO – Consumption Research Norway

OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
STORBYUNIVERSITETET

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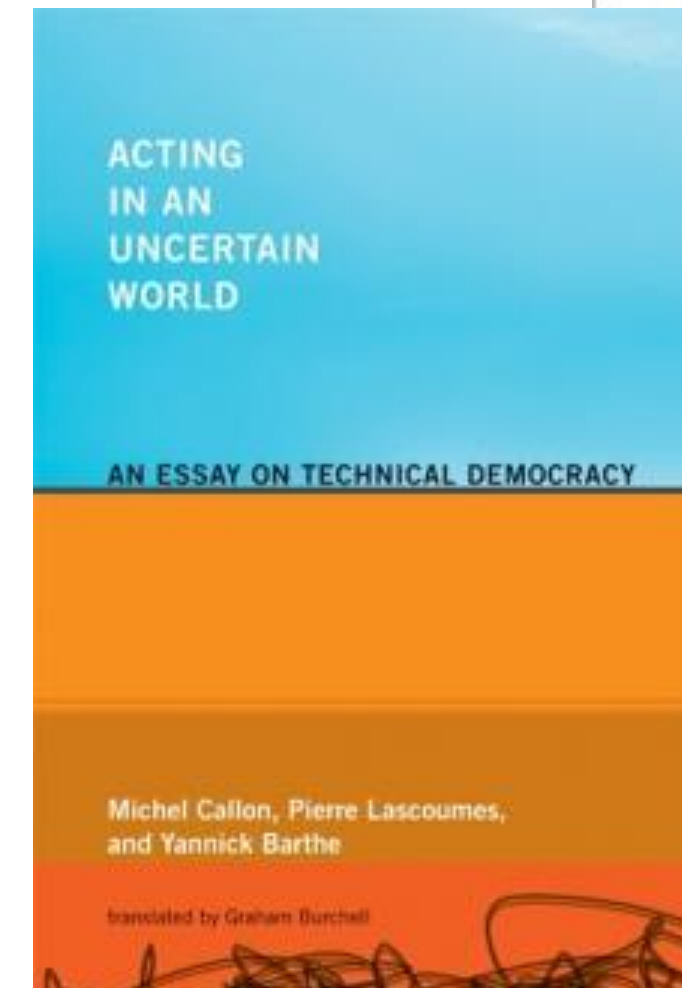
Acting in an Uncertain World, An Essay on Technical Democracy

Presented by Callon and his colleagues (2001)

→ as a democratic and dynamic way to think and act together,

hybrid forums can be described as

→ public debates with the aim of constructing a common project around a defined challenge.



Callon, M., Lascoumes, S. P., Barthe, Y., 2001, *Agir dans un monde incertain. Essai sur la démocratie technique*, Paris, Le Seuil (collection "La couleur des idées")

translation by Graham Burchell 2009, *Acting in an Uncertain World, An Essay on Technical Democracy*, MIT.

Hybrid forum can be described as a **general concept** including conventional public engagement methods, such as citizen juries, consensus conferences, focus groups or deliberative processes.

The project Engage 2020 gives both overview and systematic analysis of 57 different types of public engagement methods.

Several could have been considered as “hybrid forum” (as charrette, deep democracy, citizen assembly, consensus conference, citizen jury etc.).

Engage 2020 (2014), “D3.2 public engagement methods and tools”, in Andersson, E., Bussu, S. andDavis, H. (Eds), Engage 2020 Tools and Instruments for a Better Societal Engagement in ‘Horizon 2020’, The Involve Foundation, London, available at: <http://engage2020.eu/media/D3-2-Public-Engagement-Methods-and-Tools-3.pdf>

Participation method	Purpose and mechanism	Public representativeness	Degree of democratization and independence of participants	Transparency and equality of access to wider public	Overarching considerations
Citizen/ public advisory committee	To obtain a consensus Used in market development. Interaction with industry representatives to examine a particular issue	Low to moderate Small group to represent views of various groups, albeit may not comprise members of true public. Selected by sponsor	Moderate Often relation to sponsor and interested groups	Variable but often low Sponsor independence required to ensure transparency	It allows for in-depth understanding of issues among stakeholders Potentially isolated or un-represented groups A clear consensus may not be achieved
Citizens’ jury/panel	To shed light on a controversial issue Closed meetings with citizens, over few days period, to deliberate on a particular issue	Moderate Panel of citizens, typically 12–24 people, selected as representative sample of local population	High Independent facilitator and equal influence of participants	Moderate Final conclusions via report or press conference	Direct citizen involvement with impartial/objective consensus reached on controversial issues Top-down framing of the question and pre-emptive evaluative framework Flexible mechanism to suit local contexts and situations Consensus to be reached
Civic dialogue a range of methods	To create mutual understanding and facilitate creation of common ground towards proposed action Public conversation around complex and controversial issues	Moderate Different members of society, to represent diversity of opinions and knowledge	High Professional facilitator and equal influence of participants	High Public meeting	Open and transparent process with potential good public outreach Only useful on controversial topics of general societal order
Consensus conference	To inform and consult, with need to reach consensus over a particular issue Preparatory events and material to inform panelists about topic, followed by three-day conference	Moderate Panel of citizens (no prior knowledge on topic), typically 10–20 people, selected as representative sample of general public	Moderate to high Independent facilitator and equal influence of participants	High Meetings open to wider public Conclusions and key remarks via final report or press conference	
Focus group	To discuss on selected topic to assess opinions and attitudes Individual meeting, usually up to two hours Commonly used in research or product development	Moderate One or several groups, typically 6–12 participants per group, which are selected according to specific population segment criteria	High Free discussion with little direction from facilitator Equal influence of participants	Low	Facilitation is essential to ensure that all participants are able to contribute Not effective for addressing conflicting interests One-way information flow from public to government Potential for developing perspectives that are not obvious prior to the event
Third generation deliberative process (3GDP)	To involve citizens or stakeholders in participatory democratic hearings or policy input sessions To simulate processes that do not occur in society/regular democratic processes	Moderate A broad set of perspectives to be filled into the regular politics should look at gender, education, income etc., but it is never “representative” in any real sense	High Should contribute to democratization Most interesting when participants are truly independent	Potentially highly transparent for participants as it unfolds, and to the general public through reports	
Hybrid forum 2.0 ^a	The purpose is to have a dialogue aiming at constructing a common project to improve the local community on a defined “controversy” Dialogic interaction with different stakeholders and lay people	Moderate Both small panel of participants, to represent views of various groups of population and public dialogue	High Free discussion with little direction from facilitator. Equal influence of participants	Potentially high Full transparency as public dialogue open to wider public Conclusions and key remarks via final report or press conference	Dynamic and democratic mechanism Promote citizen–stakeholder knowledge exchange No final consensus or pre-defined result is required May generate political rather than technical outcomes, as idealist in nature

Table I. Comparison of public engagement methods and key evaluation principles, in Amilien, Tocco & Strandbakken 2019, pp5-6

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- Participation method
- Purpose and mechanism

- Public representativeness

- Degree of democratization and independence of participants

- Transparency and equality of access to wider public

- Overarching considerations

- Citizen/ public advisory committee
- Citizens' jury/ panel
- Civic dialogue - *a range of methods*
- Consensus conference
- Focus group
- Third generation deliberative process (3GDP)
- Hybrid forum 2.0

About HYBRID FORUM 2.0 – A NEW GENERATION OF HYBRID FORUM

Background 1 – To construct together *Dialogue and controversies for common project*

“By trial and error and progressive reconfigurations of problems and identities, socio-technical controversies tend to bring about a common world that is not just habitable but also livable and living, not closed on itself but open to new explorations and learning processes.

What is at stake for the actors is not just expressing oneself or exchanging ideas, or even making compromises; it is not only reacting, but constructing.”

Callon and al., 2009.

Background 2 – Best practice

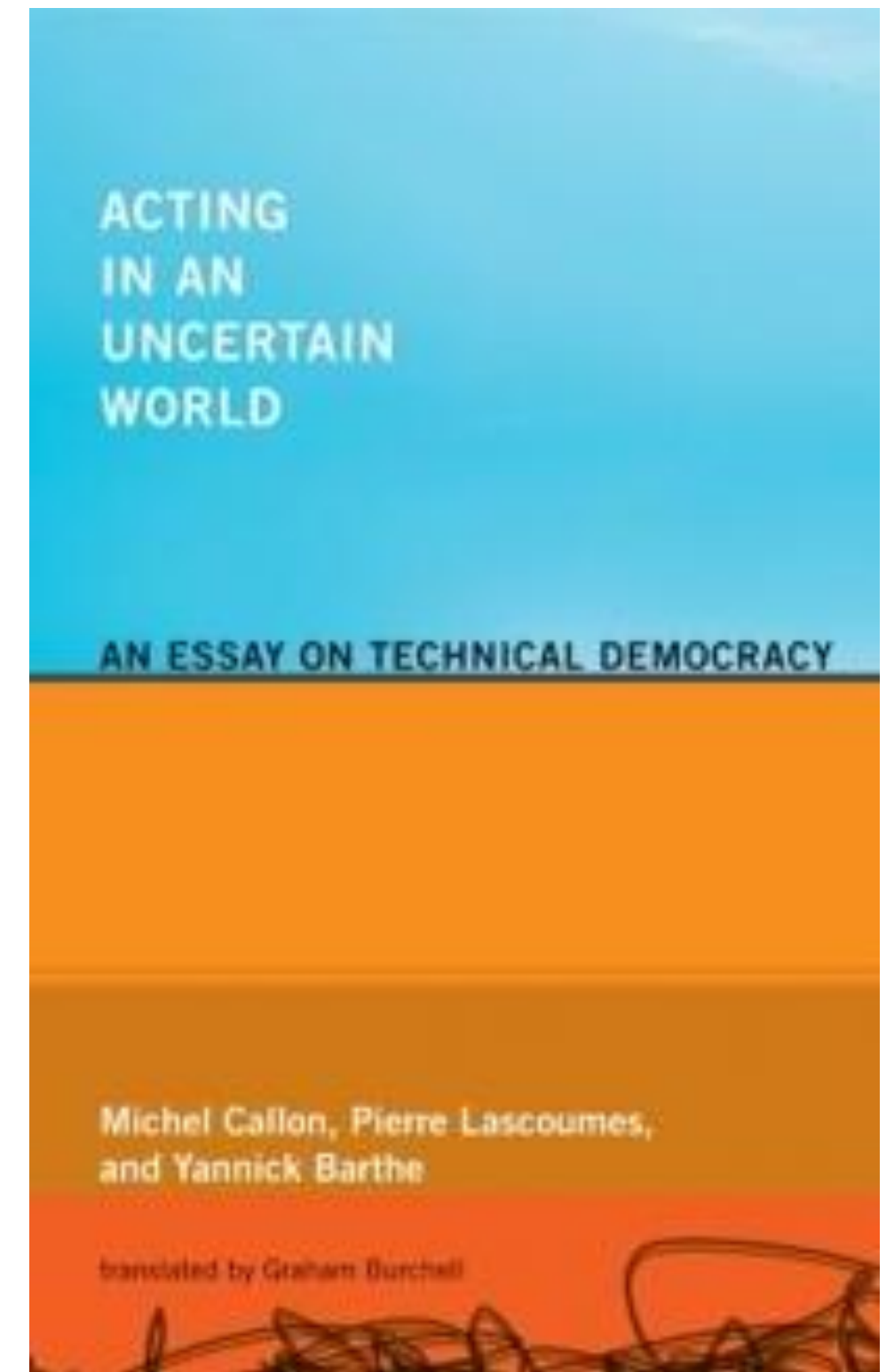
Democratic dialogue and equality

- degree of democratization, measured on three basic criteria, including the intensity or deepness, the openness and the quality of the dialogue

(Callon et al.2009: 159)

- the extent to which their structure has facilitated the dialogue, based on the equality of conditions of access, transparency and traceability, as well as the clarity of rules organizing the dialogues

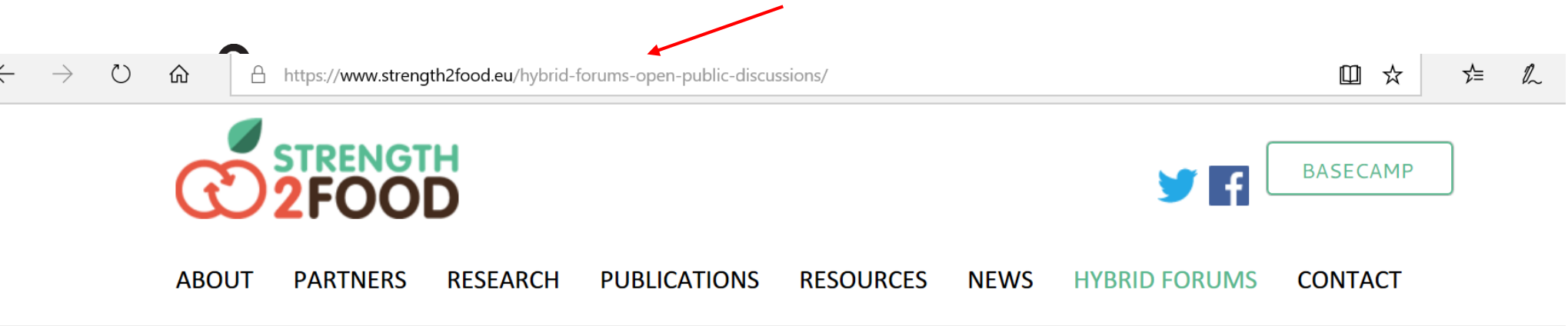
(Callon et al., 2009: 163)



The main objective: ***To invite to a dialogue / democratic dialogue***

The main pillars:

- ❑ *Controversies / disagreement*
- ❑ *Equality and openness*
- ❑ *Transparency and traceability*
- ❑ *A common world/ To construct together*

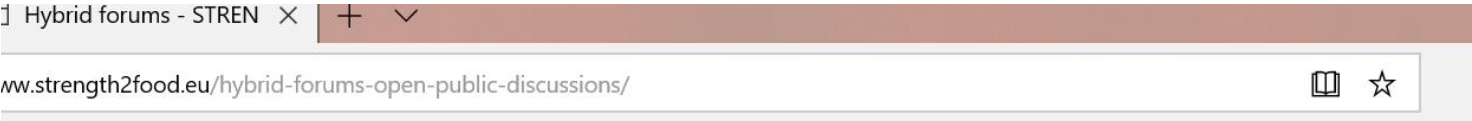


Hybrid forums: open public dialogues

The Strength2food project is organising hybrid forums to stimulate dialogue amongst all actors (local stakeholders, informants, entrepreneurs and scientific experts and lay people) in the value chain. The forums will take place in seven European countries (France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Serbia and the United Kingdom) and will address specific subjects, on ‘local controversies’. These public discussions will serve both as a methodology, guiding multi-actor research fieldwork to collect data, and as a dynamic mechanism for better communication. They offer a great experience where panelists and public are gathered, not necessary to solve a problem but to discuss and hear to each other, for improving the local community together.

Each country’s hybrid forum will meet at least three times throughout the project and will include the same kinds of actors. The following hybrid forums have been organised:

All S2Food HF 2.0 aim at following a dynamic and democratic mechanism to reflect and act together, with the aim of constructing a common project around a defined challenge



The tradition and future of the farmers’ market in Płońsk, Poland

Strength2Food held its first Polish hybrid forum on Saturday, 17 July 2018. The meeting took place in Płońsk, a town in Mazovia region, located 70 km from Warsaw. The discussion focused on the tradition and future of the farmers’ market in Płońsk. With more than half a century of tradition, the local farmers’ market takes place twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, in an open-space square in the heart of Płońsk. However, there are ongoing discussion on whether the market should be moved to a more convenient and larger space, with better parking facilities. Plus, more investment is necessary [...]



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 06, 2018



Recap of the recent Hybrid Forum in Belgrade

On June 4th, Strength2Food held its Hybrid Forum (HF) in Belgrade, Serbia in one of the schools taking part in the project’s WP9 school meals pilot scheme. Coordinated with the help of the school’s director Jole Bulatović, the event took place from 15:30 until 20:00, which meant that a few curious children were milling around while setting up for the event. The theme, “Developin regulations for standards on the quality of food in primary schools,” was il

PURPOSE AND MECHANISM

-DEGREE OF DEMOCRATISATION

TRANSPARENCY AND EQUALITY – ETC.

- The purpose is to have a dialogue aiming at constructing a common project to improve the local community on a defined 'controversy'.
- Dialogic interaction with different stakeholders and lay people. Free discussion with little direction from facilitator. Equal influence of participants. Full transparency as public dialogue open to wider public.
- Dynamic and democratic mechanism.
- Promote citizen-stakeholder knowledge exchange.
- No final consensus or pre-defined result is required. May generate political rather than technical outcomes, as idealist in nature.
- Conclusions and key remarks via final report or press conference.

At the heart of controversies

Hybrid forums as an experimental multi-actor tool to enhance sustainable practices in localized agro-food systems

Hybrid
forums as an
experimental
multi-actor tool

Virginie Amilien

Consumption Research Norway SIFO, Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway

Barbara Tocco

Newcastle University Business School, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and

Paal Strandbakken

Consumption Research Norway SIFO, Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway

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Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this paper is to focus on the role of hybrid forums as tools to address specific controversies related to sustainable practices in localized agro-food systems (LAFS).

Design/methodology/approach – In contrast with other conventional public engagement methods, such as, citizen juries, consensus conferences, focus groups or deliberative processes, hybrid forums entail a more dynamic and democratic mechanism to reflect and act together, with the aim of constructing a common project around a defined challenge (Callon *et al.*, 2001, 2009). They can offer an enriching and challenging methodological approach in the context of LAFS, especially in the discussion of controversial issues around food chain sustainability. The authors present here a new generation of hybrid forums: HF 2.0.

Findings – HF 2.0 represent both a methodological tool and a real experience of dialogic democracy, two interactive aspects which are closely interlinked and rest upon each other. The authors argue that the attractiveness of HF 2.0, is notable in at least two ways: first, they provide a solid democratic and reflective mechanism to stimulate effective dialogue and knowledge-exchange among different stakeholders; second, they contribute as an important methodological evidence-based tool, which can be used as a launching pad for shaping local action groups and community partnerships' strategies aimed at fostering local development.

Originality/value – This paper attempts to provide a methodological discussion over the experimental use of HF 2.0, in the context of LAFS and assesses their effectiveness in the co-construction of knowledge. The authors explore their pragmatic validity in addressing controversies over local and sustainable seafood via empirical applications in Norway and the UK.

Keywords Local development, Food sustainability, Hybrid forum, Multi-actor approach, Localized agro-food systems, Democratic dialogue

Paper type Research paper

Experts can argue over whether organics are slightly or substantially less productive, but they are