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## **The Paradox of Participation. The Power of Domination and the Power of Change**

**Abstract:** My paper focuses on the effects of participatory practices in the contemporary process of democratization. On the one hand, these practices were created in order to compensate for the shortcomings of the representative model (paradigm), giving more power to the people and setting a basis for real social change. On the other hand, it is not so difficult to notice that these practices could be turned, at any moment, into a useful tool for the political establishment, a tool that can extend the existing dominating structures and reinforce the messages of the well-known political propaganda. This paradox made a lot of people (political scientists, analysts, philosophers, communication scholars, media researchers) come back to the „drawing board”, in a creative quest for innovations, design modifications or type selection that would best meet the initial goals of participatory democracy.

**Keywords:** political participation, domination, change, citizen perspective, administrative perspective, political innovation