

act:onaid

Power Analysis

using John Gaventa's Power Cube

Power in Spaces and Places of
Participation



ms-tcdc (sentamu)

Spaces for participation

■ **Closed or uninvited spaces:**

- bureaucrats, experts, elected representative make decisions with little broad consultation or involvement

■ **Invited Spaces:** People are invited to participate by various kinds of authorities

■ **Claimed / Created / Invented Spaces:**

- Spaces claimed by less powerful actors from or against the power holders, or created more autonomously by them

■ **Captured spaces**

Places for participation

- Local,
 - National,
 - Global
-
- In relation to the issue / intervention you wish to pursue

Forms of Power

■ Visible

- Contests over interests are assumed to be visible in public spaces, which are presumed to be relatively open

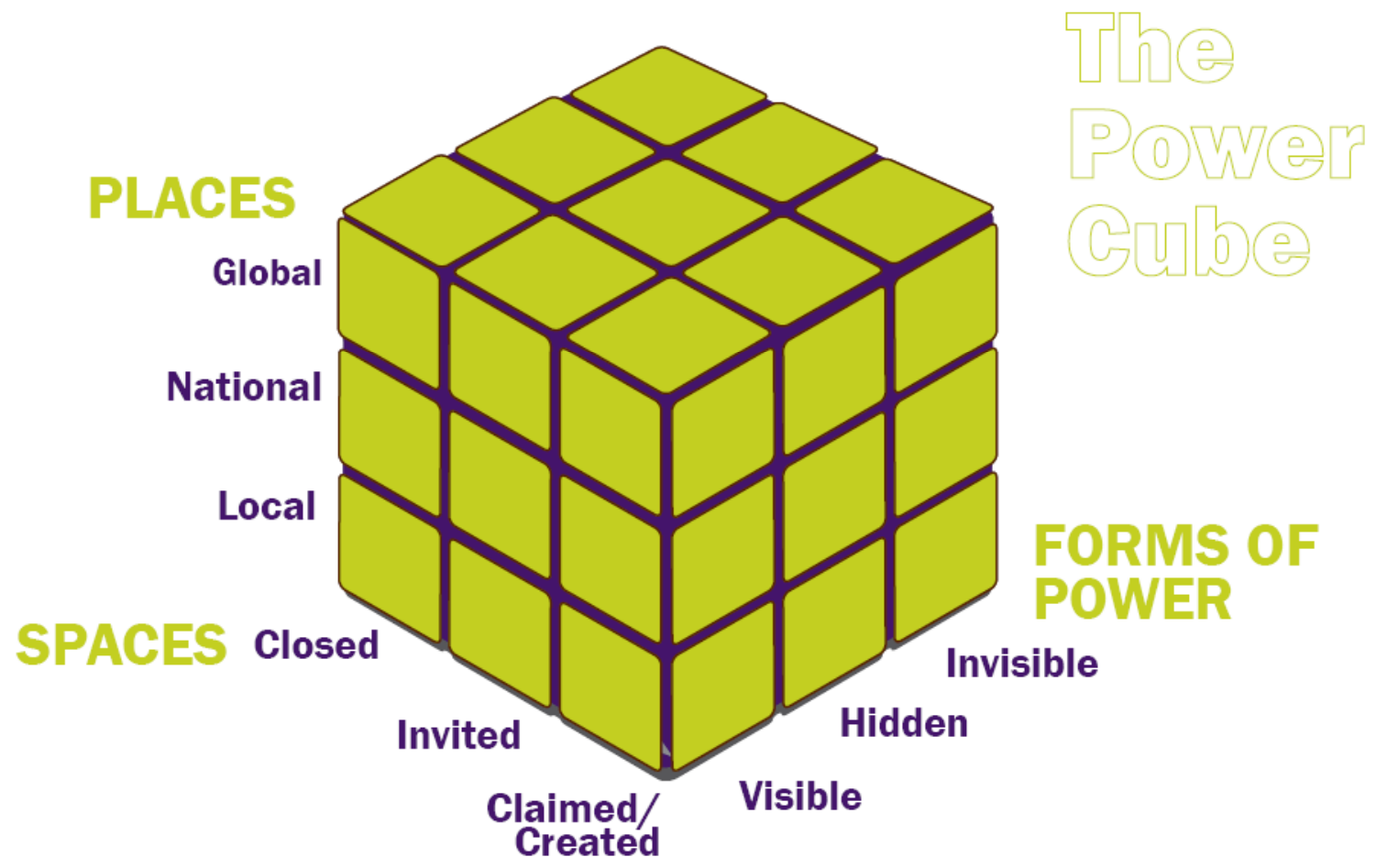
■ Hidden

- barriers preclude the entry of certain actors and issues

■ Invisible:

- Visible conflict is hidden through internalisation of powerlessness or lack of awareness

Power Cube



Empowerment

- Increasing the rights of citizens to have power over their own lives requires change at every level and aspect of the power cube.
- This multi-dimensional view of power implies inclusive participation is not only the right to participate effectively in a given policy space, but the right to define and to shape that space in the first place.

Strategy development

- **Strategies for mobilisation and action should connect across all the spaces**
 - *but how do civil society actors build alliances across the spaces and strategies?*
- **link vertically, as well as horizontally**
 - *who represents whom across the levels? How are actors in one space held accountable?*
- **address the hidden and invisible forms of power in every space and level**
 - *does 'professional' campaigning at one level re-enforce hidden and invisible forms of power at another?*