

# Power Analysis

Prerequisite for Civic Engagement



# Exploring power and change

- **Power is itself a highly contested concept**
- **Some see power as held by actors (powerful and powerless)**
- **Some see power as zero-sum (to gain power others must lose)**
- **Some see power as 'negative' as in 'control'**
- **Others see it as more fluid and accumulative**
- **Others see it as more 'positive', as necessary for agency and positive action**

# Power is changing

- **Changing perceptions of public authority**
  - *create new spaces for engagement, and new forms of power within and between them*
- **Changing relationships of the local, national and global**
  - *alter understanding of where power is located and where it may be exercised*
- **Changing role of knowledge and expertise in a globalised world**
  - *creates new boundaries which affect whose voices enter policy processes, and whose knowledge counts within them*

# 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 (?)**

# Faces 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

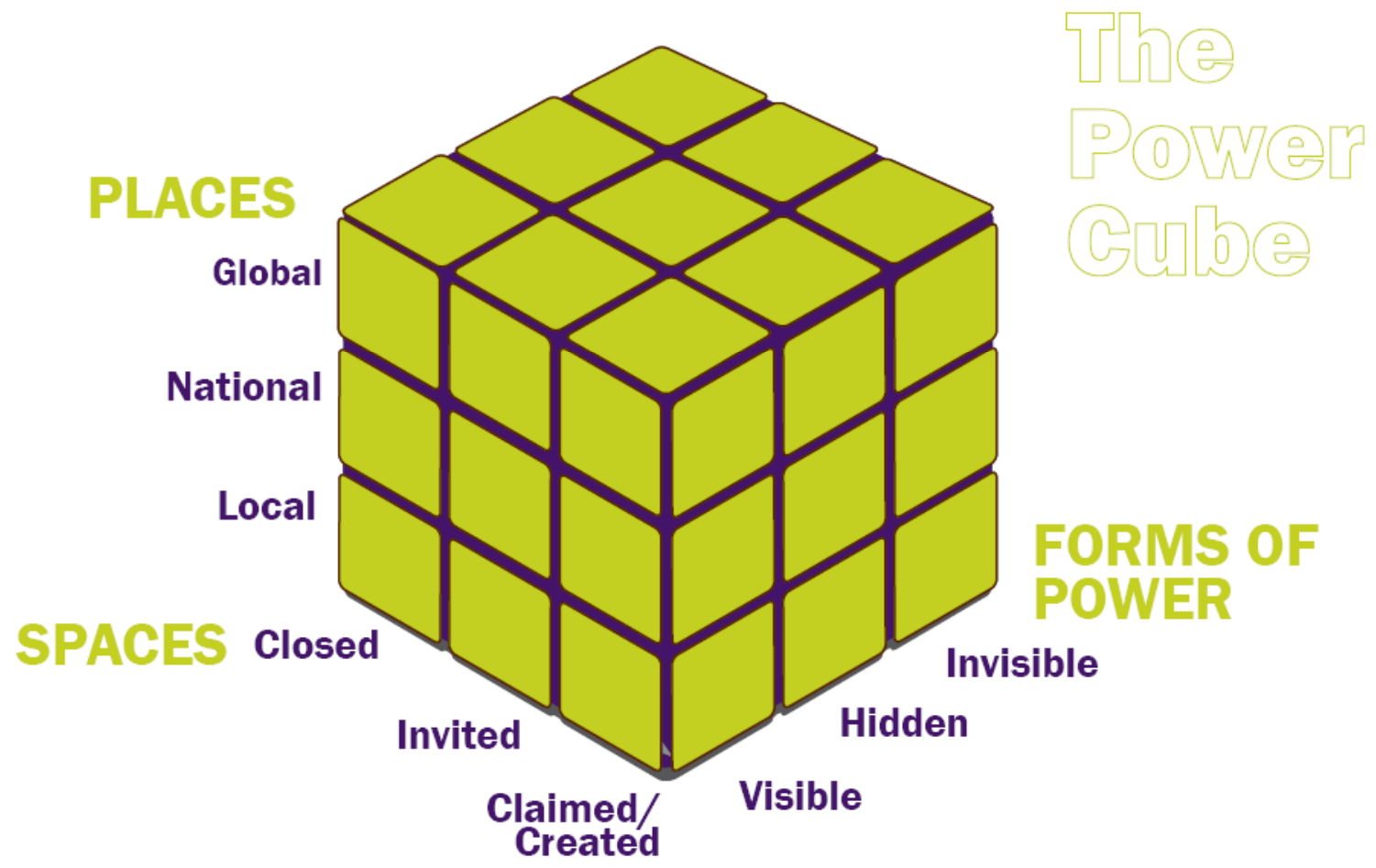
## ■ Invisible:

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

# Places for participation

- Local - rural community level
  - National
  - Regional
  - Global
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- In relation to the issue / intervention you wish to pursue

# Power Cube



# Types of power

- Power over
- Power to
- Power with
- Power within



# Types of Power

Type	
Power over	Exclusive relationship of domination – exerted over someone – ability to coerce the action and thoughts of powerless
Power to	Capacity to act, Ability to make decision, have authority, find solutions to problems – creative and enabling
Power with	Interdependent – achieved when working cooperatively with others – build solidarity
Power within	Self awareness, self esteem. How individuals can influence their lives and make changes

# Empowerment

- Increasing the rights of citizens to have power over their own lives requires change at every level.
- Build capabilities among the people in various dimensions including economic, social, cultural, political and legal

# Group work

- Think about any community (group of people) and using different types of power, suggest what capability do you need to build

# Strategy development

- **Strategies for mobilization 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?*