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RESEARCH IN URBAN POLICY VOLUME 11

CAN TOCQUEVILLE KARAOKE? GLOBAL CONTRASTS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, THE ARTS AND DEVELOPMENT



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WAS TOCQUEVILLE WRONG?
BUZZ AS CHARISMA, CREATIVITY,
AND GLAMOUR; NEW SOURCES
OF POLITICAL LEGITIMACY
SUPPLEMENTING VOTING, AND
CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Terry Nichols Clark and Filipe Carreira da Silva

ABSTRACT

This chapter explores the idea that democratic political legitimacy can emerge by other means than voting or citizen participation. Beyond these conventional methods of building legitimacy, we contend that alternative modes are emerging all over the world. Among these emergent forms are a wide range of policies, from China's economic growth to Bogotá's use of pantomime street crossing guards, replacing corrupt traffic police. Matched to their context, these policies may enhance political legitimacy. Particularly in locations with weak traditions of citizen participation, exploring alternatives to classic Tocquevillian participation may have more impact. Examining some major successes can illuminate alternative

dynamics. We thus feature some specific non-Tocquevillian policies to open consideration of options.

Keywords: Legitimacy; participation; comparative politics; government; public policy