

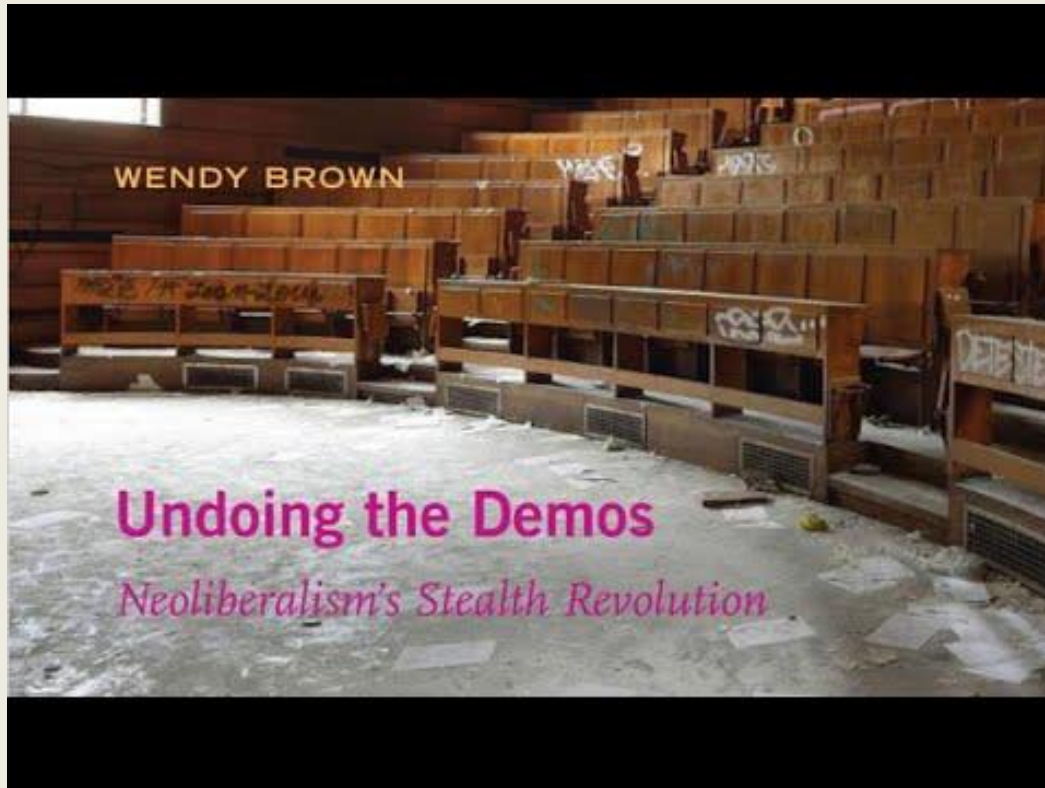
Researching Policy Goods for Australia's Northern Regions

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A talk about policy influenced by reading...



.... and trying to work out what to do in response to the picture
Wendy Brown presents



Australian Government

A white outline map of Northern Australia, showing the coastline and major inland features.

Our North, Our Future:
White Paper on Developing
Northern Australia
Overview





Australian Government



Brown's contention:
Policies of the sort
developed under the
political rationality
this document
expresses...
are slowly and surely
killing democracy in
liberal democracies
like Australia

Within thirty years [of neoliberalising policies beginning to be instituted], Western democracy would grow gaunt, ghostly, its future increasingly hedged and improbable.

More than merely saturating the meaning or content of democracy with market values, neoliberalism assaults the principles, practices, cultures, subjects, and institutions of democracy, understood as rule by the people

Wendy Brown *Undoing the Demos*, 2015, p. 9

Difference between a policy bad...
and bad policy....

Brown's thesis

As a political rationality,
Neoliberalism produces a policy
bad.... The death of democracy

Implication...

good policy is incompatible with
neoliberalism

Policy goods...

Examples of policy goods

... re-distribution of wealth generated in collective life... a contested policy good

.... fostering conditions to widen the horizon of citizens and give them command of their own powers... a policy good that expresses the hopes of democracy... as distinct from plutocracy and technocracy

Democracy as relation...

...from Rancière from Aristotle

A democratic moment in policy nurtures a collective impulse towards enacting a relation...

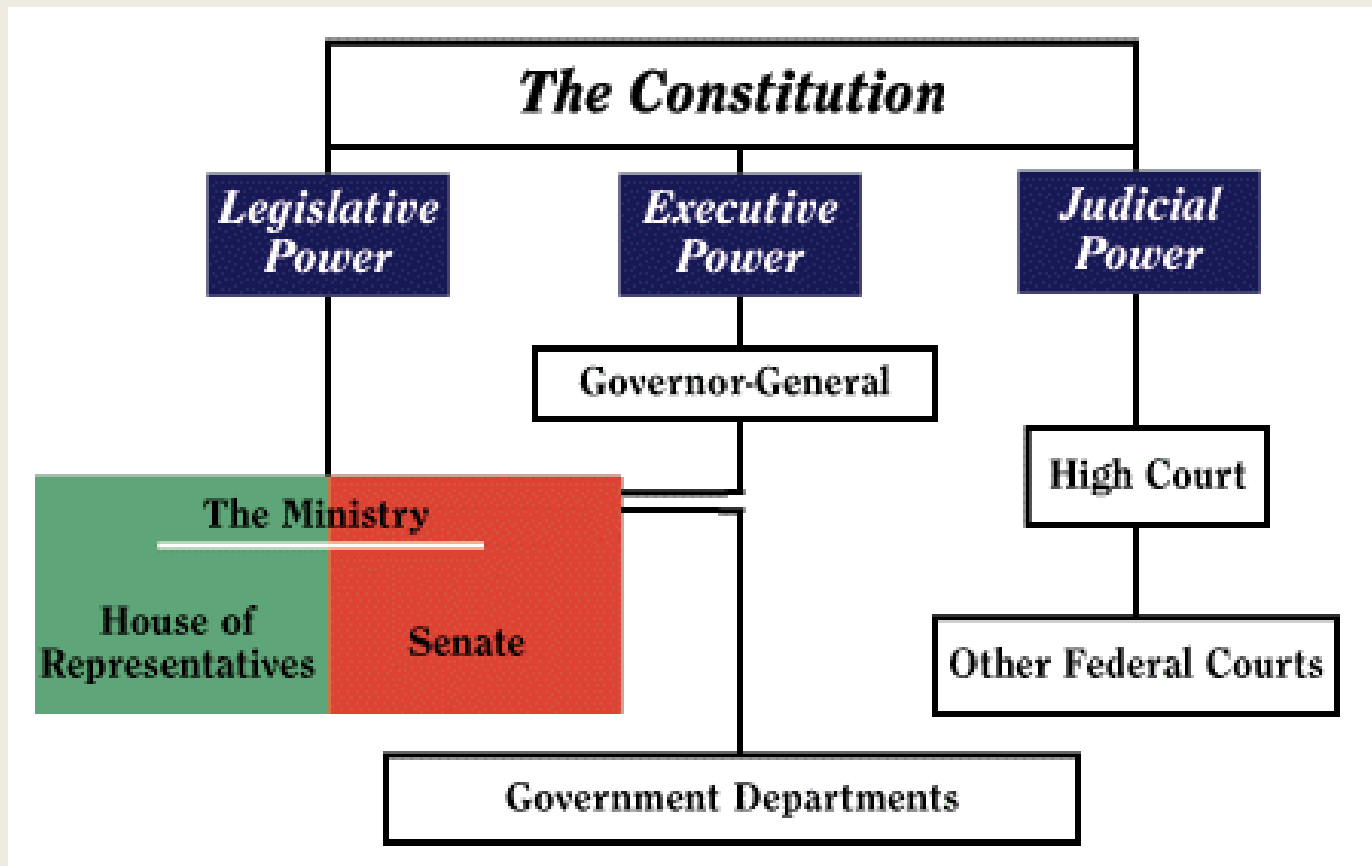
Democracy is

the relation between a citizen as a member of the demos (as subject) and...

the paradoxical simultaneously partaking by this citizen in the collective action

... of ruling and of being ruled

What this refuses is the claim that democracy can be defined by the workings of liberal democratic institutions



If institutions are no longer the sites where caring for democracy is primarily vested...
Where can we care for democracy?

If we take democracy as a relation seriously

....we will find ourselves caring for the
configuration of citizens

.... and we will find ourselves caring for the
configuration of objects of governance

Democracy is

the relation between a citizen configured as member of the demos (as subject) and...

the collective action which is the paradoxical simultaneously partaking by this citizen... in the

collective action of ruling and of being ruled

Implication...

The figure of the citizen as simultaneously knowing and being known... governing and being governed.... emerges all of a piece in the moment of governance

The figure of the citizen...

knowing and being known... and governing
and being governed...

.... emerges all of a piece

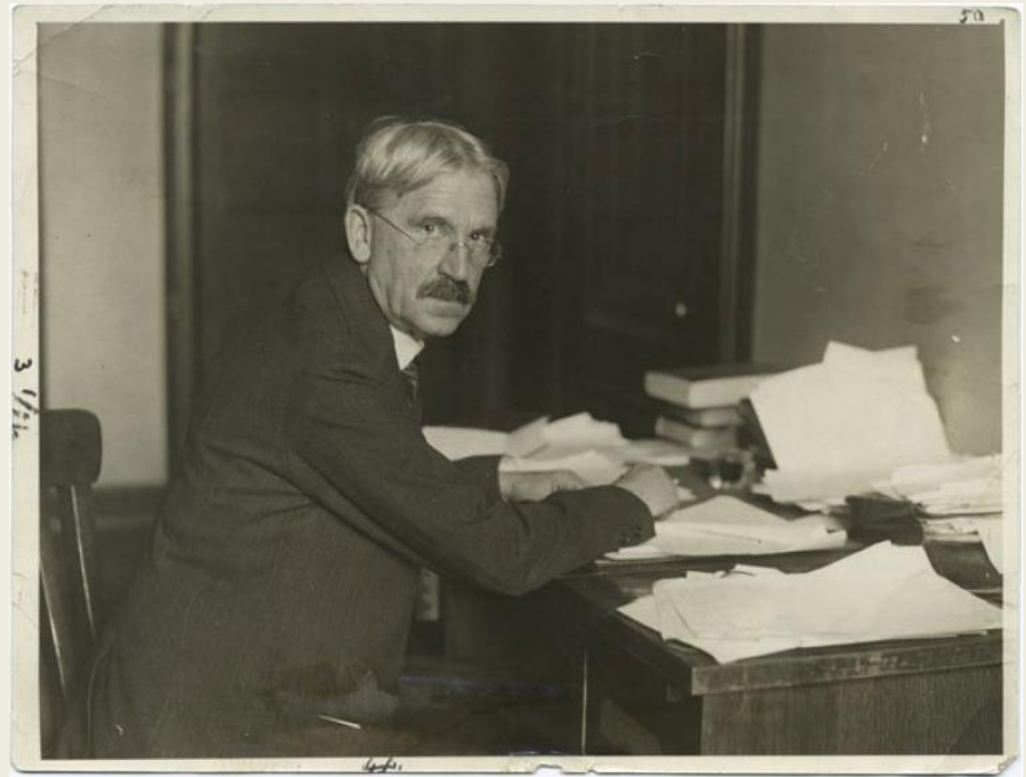
www.cdu.edu.au/centres/groundup/igld/

This is exactly how
I would characterise
some of what I have
learned from my
Yolngu colleagues
over a period of
nearly thirty years



Deweyan sensibility

... fostering
conditions to
widen the horizon
of citizens and give
them command of
their own powers



Caring for democracy in policy ? ...

Does policy care for democracy? Surely that's the job of politics and politicians?

To have democracy 'done' in the work of caring for relations between government officers and citizens radically alters the perception of where politics is done...

... and what politics is... and what policy is...
and what research for policy is...

... and our working story of relations between knowledge and politics in policy...

Democracy is cared for in nurturing particular sorts of politico-epistemic practices and their arrangements...

... Doing research for policy is becoming sensitized to the multiplicities and myriad variety of politico-epistemic practices and their arrangements and workings in institutions