



Info-Activism & ODR

Strange Bedfellows or Fellow Travelers?

October 30, 2012 - Presented by Bill Warters - Wayne State University master of Arts in Dispute Resolution

Introductions

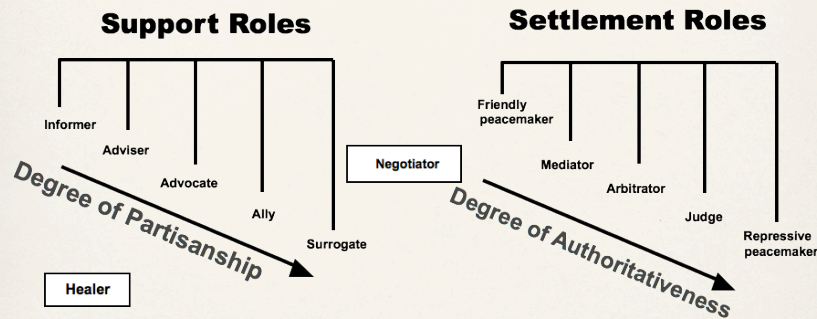
Quick Check-in Poll

3 words that come to mind
when you consider combining
technology-assisted conflict
mediation with human rights
activism.

Some Theories About Conflict Intervention Roles

Donald Black on 3rd Parties in Conflict

Typology of Third Parties



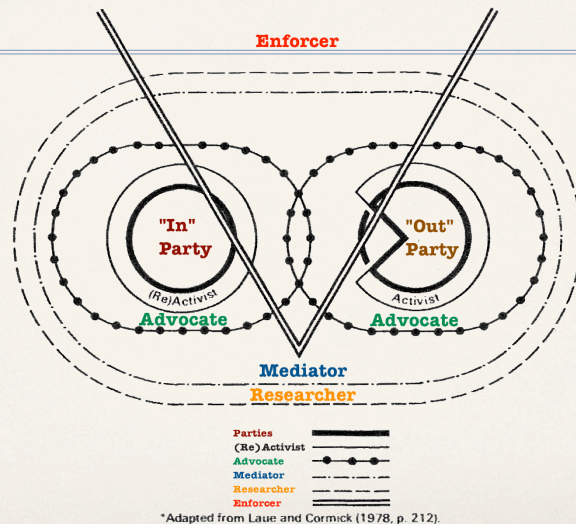
From: "Toward a Theory of the Third Party" p. 98 in the
Social Structure of Right and Wrong by Donald Black

James Laue's 3rd Party Roles

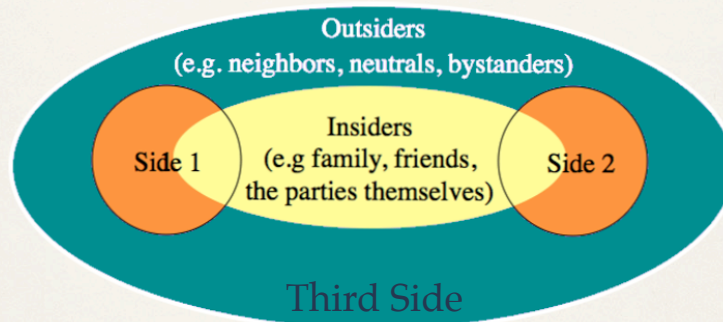
- ✦ Activist (tied to dispute)
- ✦ Advocate (lawyer or manager)
- ✦ Mediator (concerned with parties)
- ✦ Researcher (journalist or social scientist)
- ✦ Enforcer (Arbitrator/Judge/Police)

Laue, J. H. (1982), Ethical Considerations in Choosing Intervention Roles. *Peace & Change*, 8: 29-41

Social Conflict Roles - James Laue



The Third Side

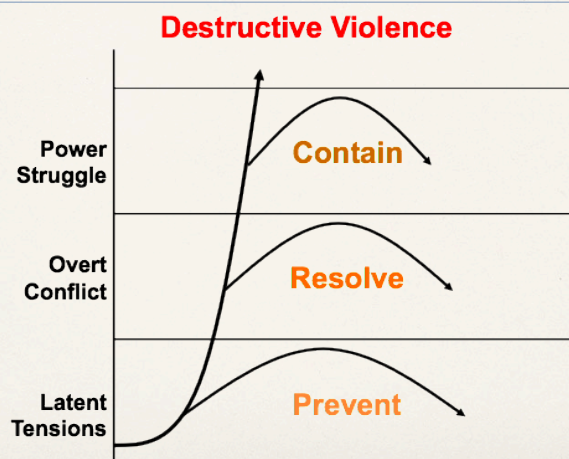


* as per William Ury in The Third Side: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop see <http://www.thirdside.org>

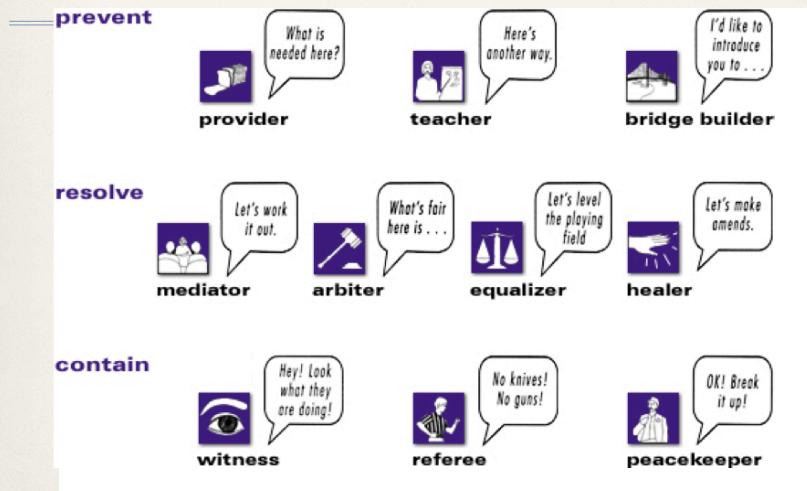
3rd Side Roles

- ✦ **Provider - Enabling People to Meet Their Needs**
- ✦ **Teacher - Giving People Skills to Handle Conflict**
- ✦ **Bridge-BUILDER - Forging Relationships Across Lines of Conflict**
- ✦ **Mediator - Reconciling Conflicting Interests**
- ✦ **Arbiter - Determining Disputed Rights**
- ✦ **Equalizer - Democratizing Power**
- ✦ **Healer - Repairing Injured Relationships**
- ✦ **Witness - Paying Attention to Escalation**
- ✦ **Referee - Setting Limits to Fighting**
- ✦ **Peacekeeper - Providing Protection**

Levels of Conflict & Intervention Goals



3rd Side Roles – by Stage



Info-Activism

Turning Information into Action

Tactical Technology Collective

<http://www.tacticaltech.org/>

@info_activism

TACTICAL
TECHNOLOGY
COLLECTIVE

- ✦ What: Established in 2003, Tactical Tech is an international NGO working to enable the effective use of information for progressive social change. Their work is informed by the principles of freedom of expression and freedom of information and the need for transparency and accountability.
- ✦ Who: technologists, information designers, data and security experts, and human rights and environmental justice activists who share a passion for social change.
- ✦ Mission: to advance the skills, tools and techniques of rights advocates, empowering them to use information and communications to help marginalized communities understand and effect progressive social, environmental and political change.



Info-Activism Video Trailer

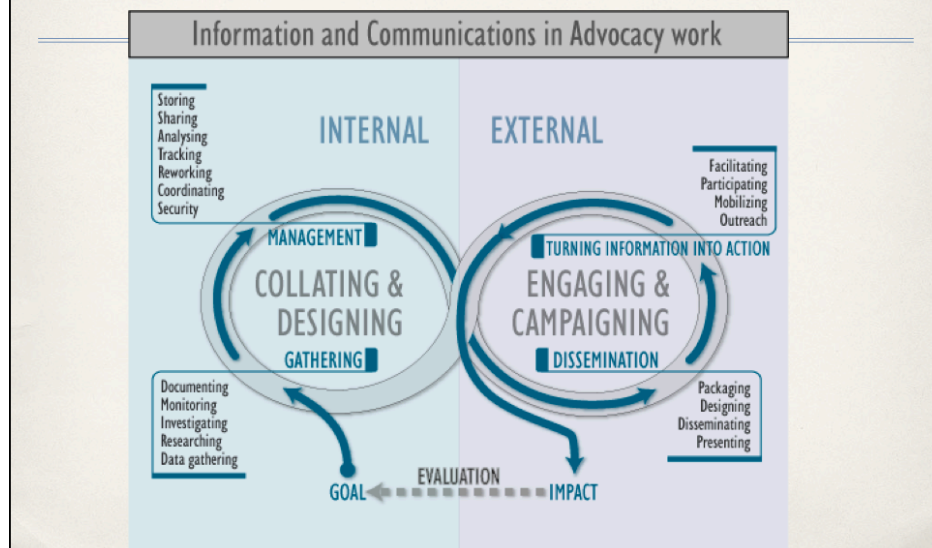
10 Tactics Movie Trailer - <http://vimeo.com/7079347> - from Tactical Tech

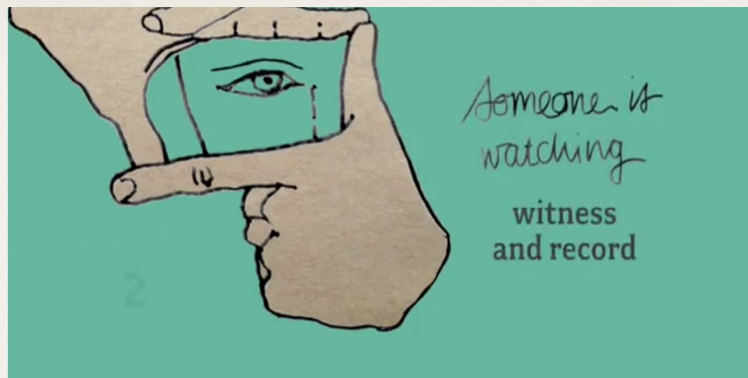
Info-Activism Tasks Include:

- ✦ Gathering and creating information: bearing witness, monitoring, researching, investigating
- ✦ Analyzing & tracking existing information & data
- ✦ Re-presenting or breaking down existing information
- ✦ Strategic messaging and distributing information
- ✦ Finding or creating alternative channels for distribution (such as alternative media)
- ✦ Bringing excluded voices or points of view to the fore
- ✦ Mobilizing constituencies
- ✦ Coordinating regionally or internationally

<http://archive.tacticaltech.org/infoactivism>

ICT in Advocacy Work





Tactic 2 - Witness and record

Info-Activism Video 2

Tactic 2 - Witness and Record - <http://vimeo.com/8743879> - from Tactical Tech

Featured Tools in 10 Tactics



Which Roles Do Info-Activists Occupy?

- ✦ In Donald Black's model?
 - ✦ Advisor or Advocate or Ally or Surrogate
- ✦ In James Laue's model?
 - ✦ Activist or Advocate or Researcher
- ✦ In Ury's Third Side model?
 - ✦ Equalizer or Witness



Predominant Online Dispute Resolution Service "Models"

- ✦ Convening Parties who then negotiate on their own via platform
- ✦ Computer-Assisted Negotiation Tools
- ✦ Solution Suggester - based on prior case patterns
- ✦ Enable Conciliation via Text/Email (serve as Go Between)
- ✦ Provide Mediation in an Online Environment
- ✦ Provide Arbitration in an Online Environment

Which Roles Does ODR Occupy?

- ✦ In Donald Black's model?
 - ✦ Negotiator or Mediator or Arbitrator or Judge
- ✦ In James Laue's model?
 - ✦ Mediator or (maybe) Researcher
- ✦ In Ury's Third Side model?
 - ✦ Bridge-BUILDER or Mediator or Arbiter or Referee

Tensions Between ODR and Info-Activism



Image by Flickr user Ben Cooper aka cycleologist

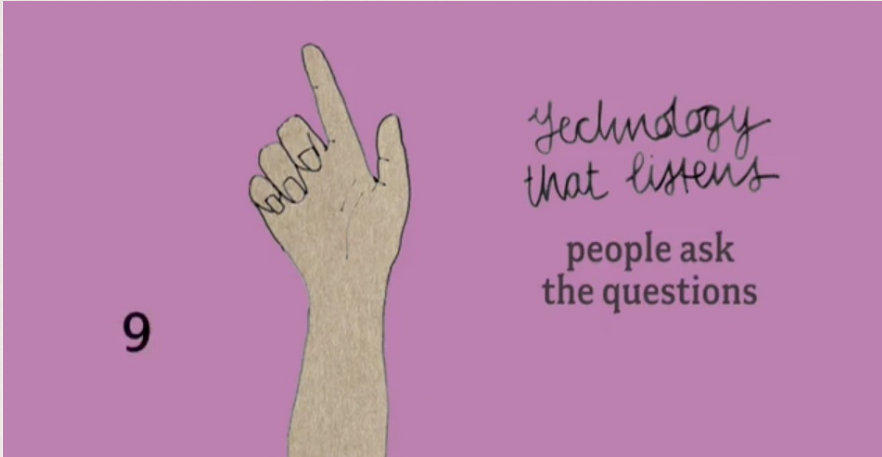
Tensions

- ❖ Info-Activists often need to Stir Things Up to get the attention of the powerful, conflict resolvers often want to slow or Quiet Things Down
- ❖ Activists may require anonymity and leaderlessness, while mediators/arbitrators may require accountability and spokespeople
- ❖ Others?

Partnership Possibilities?



Image by Joi Ito from Flickr



A graphic with a purple background. On the left, a hand is drawn with the index finger pointing up. The word "bbb" is written on the palm. To the left of the hand is the number "9". To the right of the hand, the text "Technology that listens" is written in a cursive script, and below it, "people ask the questions" is written in a sans-serif font.

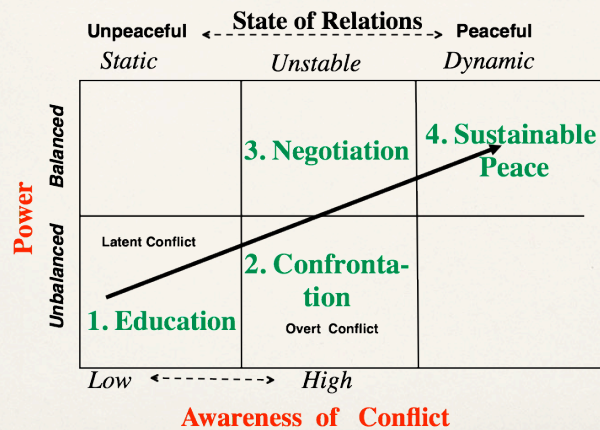
Info-Activism Video 3

Tactic 9 - Let People Ask the Questions - <http://vimeo.com/9404998>

Possible Ideas

- ✦ Conflict Resolution spaces or people could provide a face saving channel for “in power” parties who are being pushed to change their behavior by activists
- ✦ ODR could be provided for conflicts within activist communities
- ✦ Info-Activists could alert/advise ODR system designers and mediators re technological vulnerabilities
- ✦ Others? (quick poll)

Stages of Change - Adam Curle



Based on Curle, 1971, as in Lederach, 1995

Where to Learn More

- ✦ Tactical Technology Collective - <http://tacticaltech.org>
- ✦ New Tactics in Human Rights - <http://www.newtactics.org>
- ✦ National Center for Technology and Dispute Resolution
- <http://www.odr.info>
- ✦ More on the Third Side - <http://www.thirdside.org>
- ✦ Participate in Cyberweek!
- ✦ Bill Warters' projects - <http://www.campus-adr.net>