

# Students and staff co-creating curricula: conceptualisations and practical guidance

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- ◆ Background and definitions
- ◆ Possible and desirable levels of participation
- ◆ Examples of different types of participation
- ◆ Key design decisions influencing student engagement



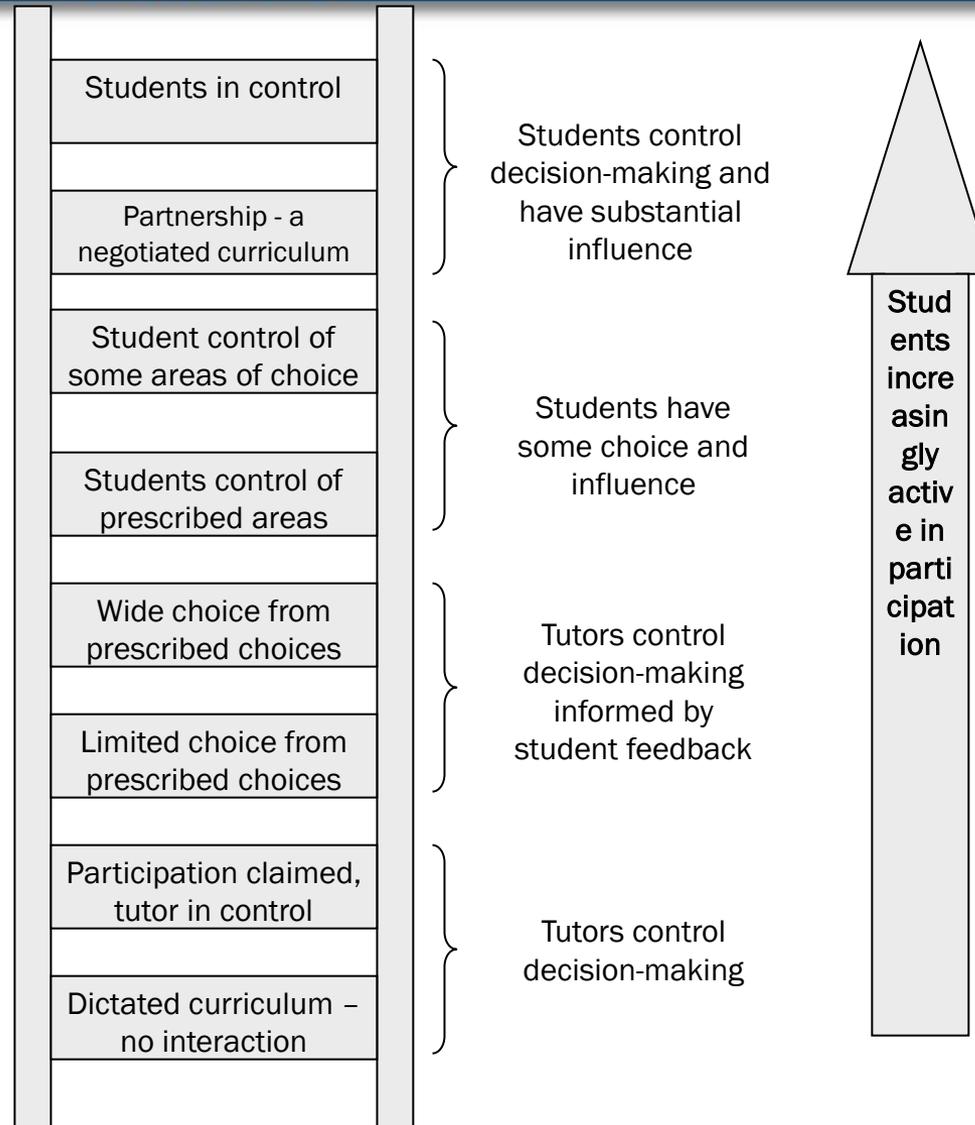
# What is the curriculum?

Fraser & Bosanquet's (2006) curriculum definitions

- a) Structure and content of a unit
- b) Structure and content of a programme of study
- c) The students' experience of learning
- d) A dynamic and interactive process of teaching and learning (p272)

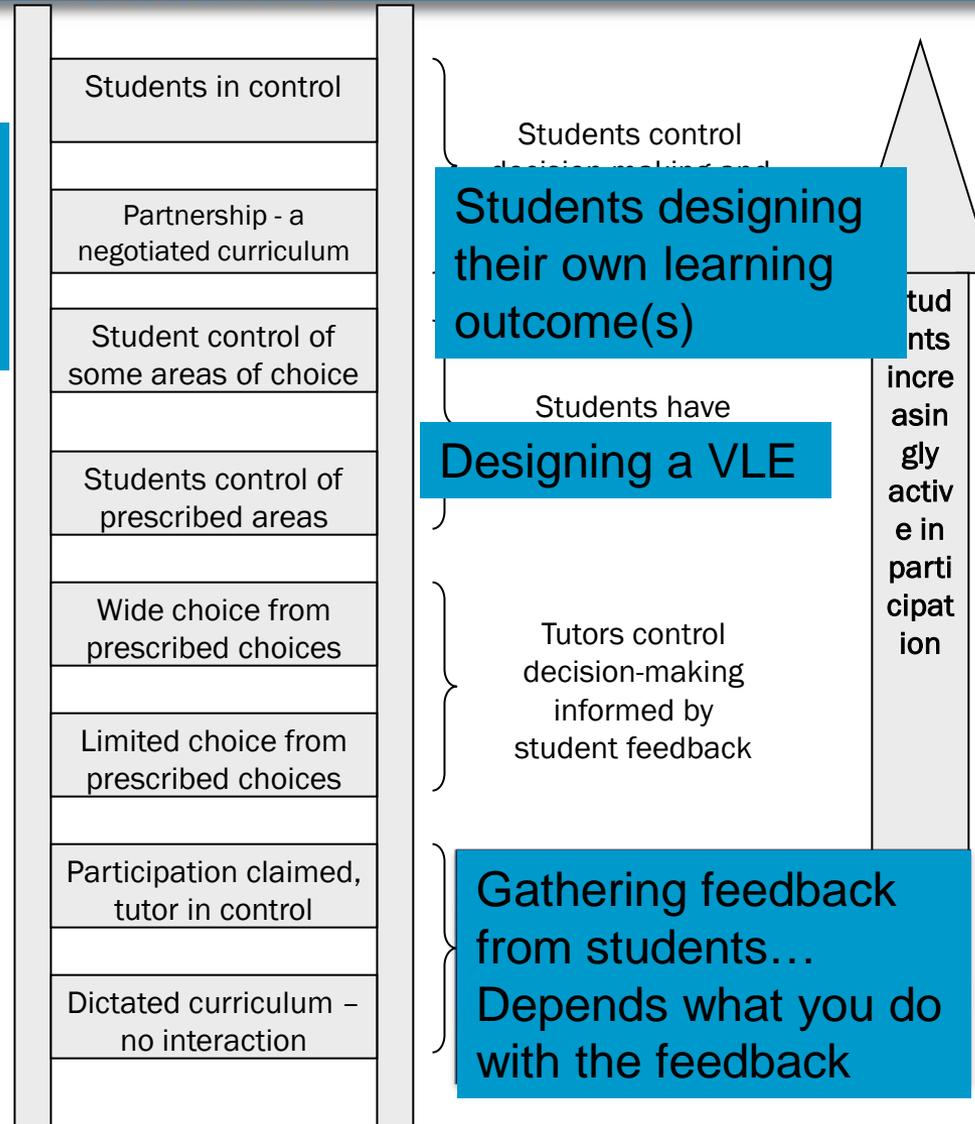
- ◆ **Students as co-creators/co-producers of their learning** (Bovill et al, 2011& 2009; McCulloch, 2009; Neary, 2010; SFC, 2008)
- ◆ **Literature calling for student participation in curriculum design from critical pedagogy and popular education** (Darder et al, 2003; Dewey, 1916; Fischer, 2005; Freire, 1993; Giroux, 1983; Rogers and Freiberg, 1969)
- ◆ **Specific student participation in curriculum design**
  - Breen & Littlejohn (2000) **Language teaching**
  - Samson & Scandrett (1999) **Environmental justice**
  - Fischer (2005); Delpish et al ( 2010) **Education**
  - Bovill et al, (2011); Cook-Sather (2010) **non-disciplinary specific**

# Ladder of student participation in curriculum design



# Ladder of student participation in curriculum design

Students as full members of curriculum design team



# Words of caution...

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Higher up the ladder is not necessarily 'better'

Beware of chasing the nirvana of total participation and totally equal participation

Different points on the ladder might be possible or desirable in different contexts

The ladder is simply a model to facilitate discussion

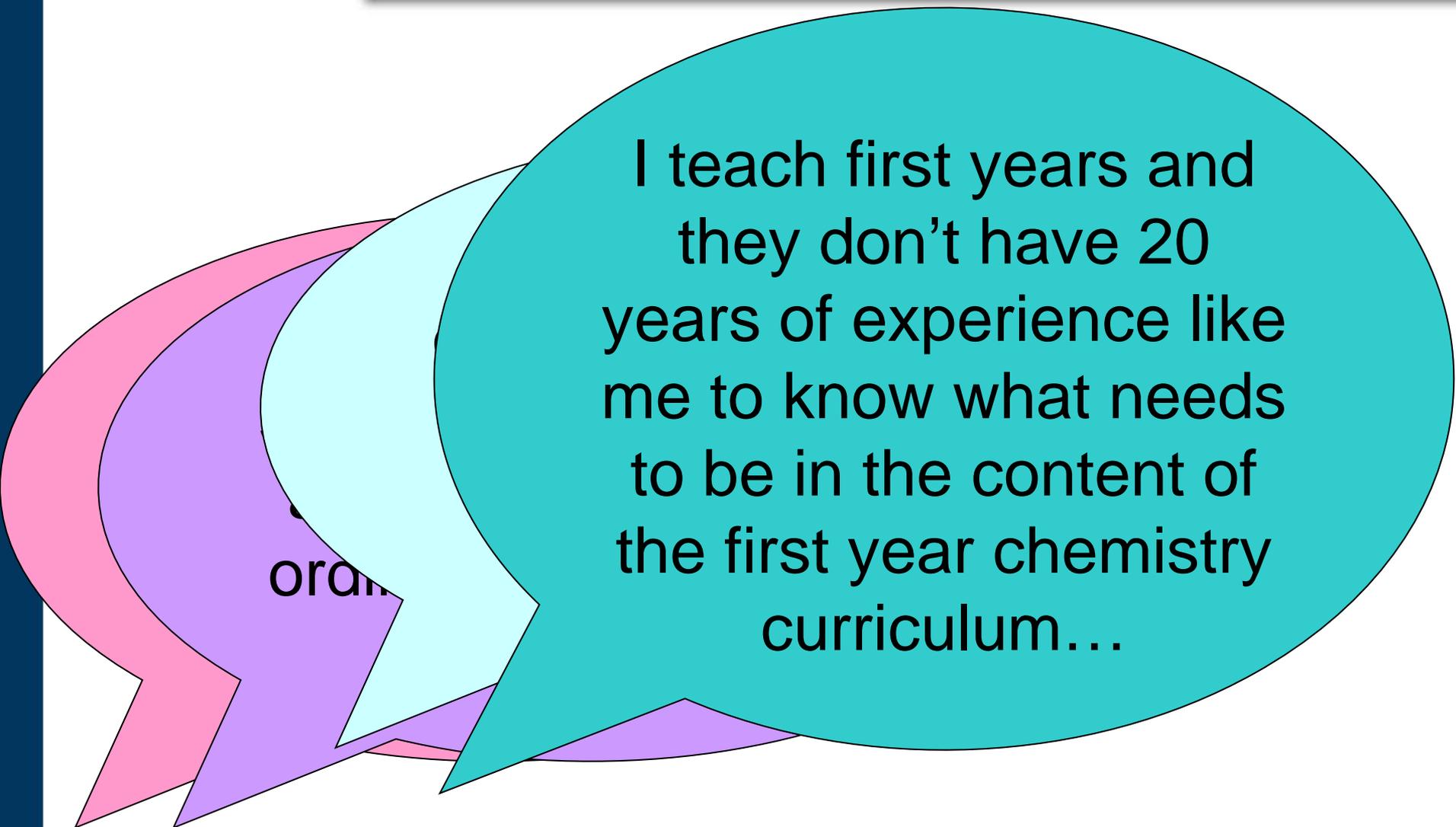
# Examples of co-created curricula

- 1) Do you have any examples of co-created curricula?
- 2) Where would you place them on the ladder?

# Examples of co-creation?

- students asked to complete course feedback questionnaire
- students choosing the topic for their research project
- students co-designing marking criteria with staff
- students and staff collaborating to choose a course text book
- students influencing the content of the curriculum
- students becoming full members of a curriculum design team
- students designing the VLE for a programme
- students designing (one of?) their own learning outcomes

# Some big questions...



I teach first years and they don't have 20 years of experience like me to know what needs to be in the content of the first year chemistry curriculum...

organ

# Pre-design decisions

## Tutors as gatekeepers...

- Which students? *Retrospective, current or future design?*
- Selecting students – if not all students by interview/criteria
- Do you reward your students?
- Course, programme or extra-curricular?
- Students involved in designing curriculum process or content?  
Bovill (in press)

Any questions?

Is there one of your courses where you could try out co-creating the curriculum with students?

What could you do?