Discursive/deliberative democracy emphasizes the contestation of discourses in the public sphere (Dryzek).

Public sphere refers to the “interlocking and overlapping networks and associations of deliberation, contestation and argumentation” (Benhabib).

The discursive relations among differently empowered publics are likely to take the form of contestation as that of deliberation (Fraser).

Contestation—issue-spotting, assigning blame, problematising taken for granted assumptions—are crucial to deliberative processes (Curato, Niemeyer and Dryzek).
CONTESTATIONS OF DISCOURSES

- Framework can be systemic and/or sequential (Curato and Steiner, forthcoming?)
- The analysis needs to be descriptive and evaluative (O’Flynn and Curato, forthcoming)

SYSTEMS OR SEQUENCES

PUBLIC SPACE

ACCOUNTABILITY

TRANSMISSION
SYSTEMS OR SEQUENCES

ACUTE PHASE  RECOVERY PHASE  REBUILDING PHASE

DESCRIBE AND EVALUATE

PHILIPPINES, HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER

CORRUPT AND TREACHEROUS
DESCRIBE AND EVALUATE

Inclusiveness
• Whose voices are heard? Whose voices are listened to? Whose voices are central/peripheral? (Couldry)
• Who are empowered to give an account of oneself? ("Deliberative agency")

Authenticity
• Speech cultures (performances, polyvocality)
• Political economy

Consequentiality