



# Public Participation of Civil Society in Kenya's Fiscal Policymaking under the 2010 Constitutional Provisions

Latifat Omolewa SHOBOGUN



EIMAS  
EUROPEAN INTERDISCIPLINARY  
MASTER AFRICAN STUDIES  
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree

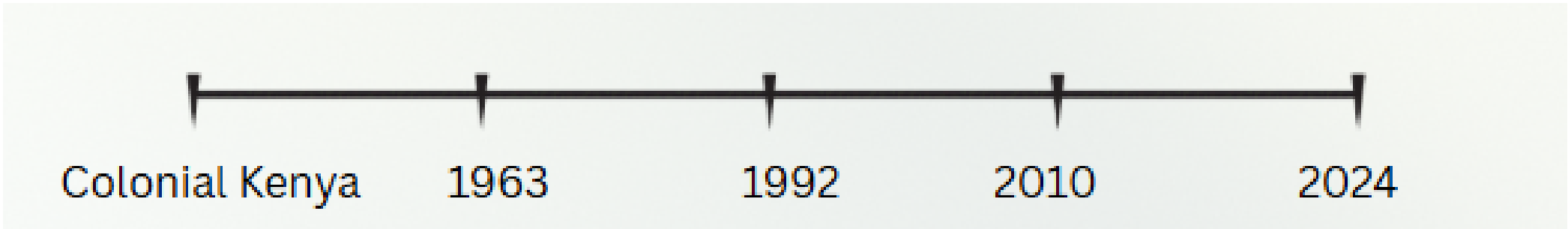
## Introduction

The 2010 Constitution of Kenya introduced provisions for public participation, which gave Kenyans the right to participate in all policy decisions, including fiscal matters. However, the outbreak of the 2024 Finance Bill protests raises questions about the state of public participation in the country. This thesis investigates how civil society has participated in the country's fiscal policymaking before and after the promulgation of the new constitution.



## Methodology

- Qualitative research
- Inductive process tracing method
- Secondary sources (Colonial Kenya - 2010): Books, journal articles, and working papers
- Primary sources (post-2010): Semi-structured interviews with civil society actors; the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, PFM Act, policy documents, reports, etc.



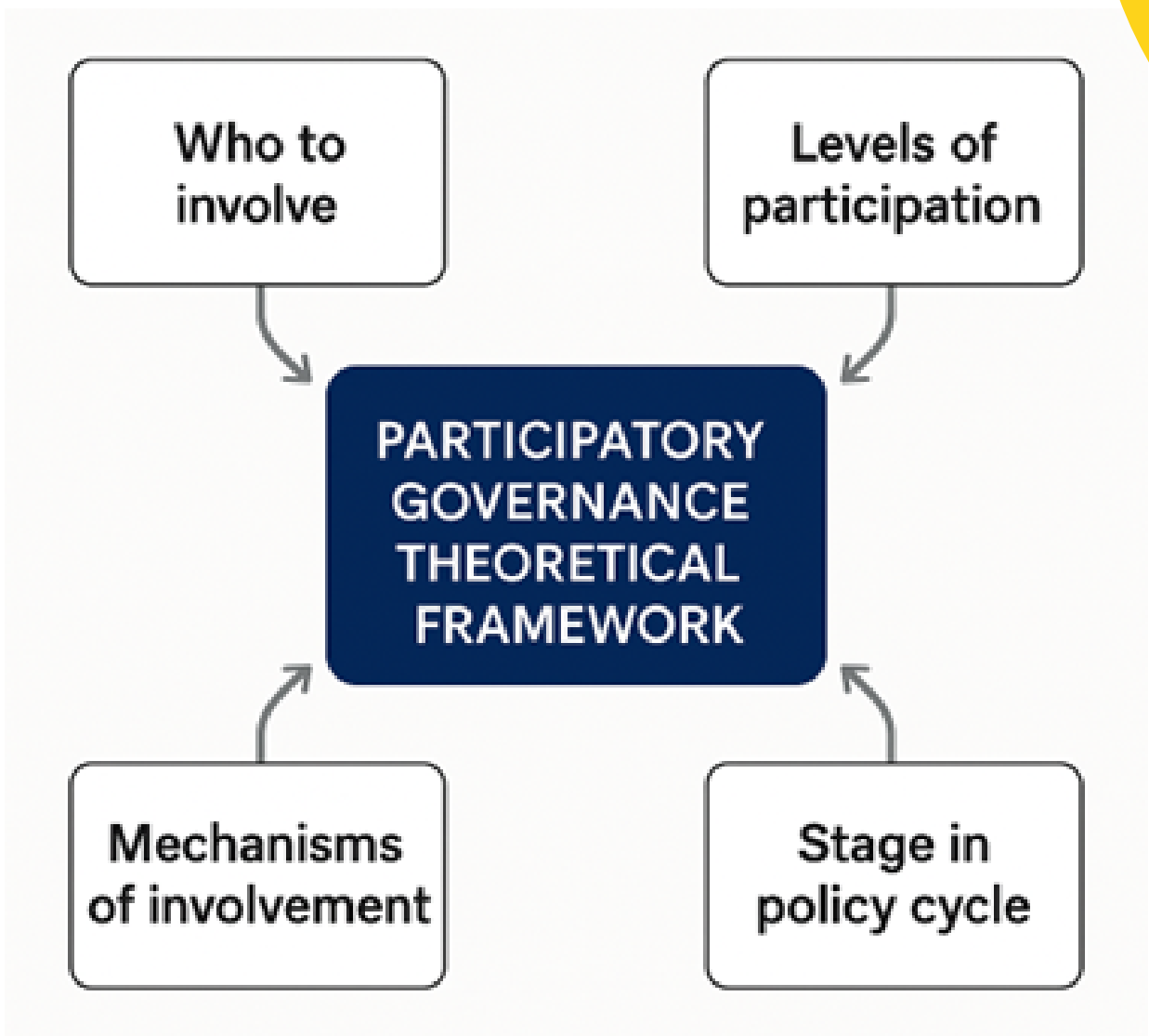
Process tracing timeline

## Objectives

To examine the nature of civil society's participation in Kenya's fiscal policymaking in the framework of the 2010 Constitution.

- To assess how the Constitution affected civil society's participation
- To understand the mechanisms through which the government engages civil society
- To examine the civil society strategies for participation
- To investigate the barriers to civil society's effective participation

## Theoretical Framework



## Key Findings

- Participatory change in Kenya is often preceded by large-scale civil unrest.
- Civil society organisations in Kenya have been advocates of inclusive participation since the colonial period.
- The promulgation of the 2010 Constitution influenced the establishment of new CSOs committed to public financial management (PFM), and the creation of PFM departments within existing CSOs.
- Civil society participation in Kenya's fiscal policymaking remains challenged due to a lack of political will, absence of a strong rule of law, rare uptake of civil society/citizens' input, and lack of a defined public participation framework, among others.
- The challenges above are evident in the 2024 Finance Bill case, contributing to the outbreak of the protests.

## Conclusion

- Enduring structures of long years of authoritarianism and centralisation continue to undermine public participation efforts in Kenya.
- Existing structures are not automatically erased by constitutional changes, there is need for a strong rule of law and a political will for implementation, among others.

### CONTACT

