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SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT SMALL-SCALE DELIBERATION?
A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW OF MINIPUBLIC CONSEQUENCES

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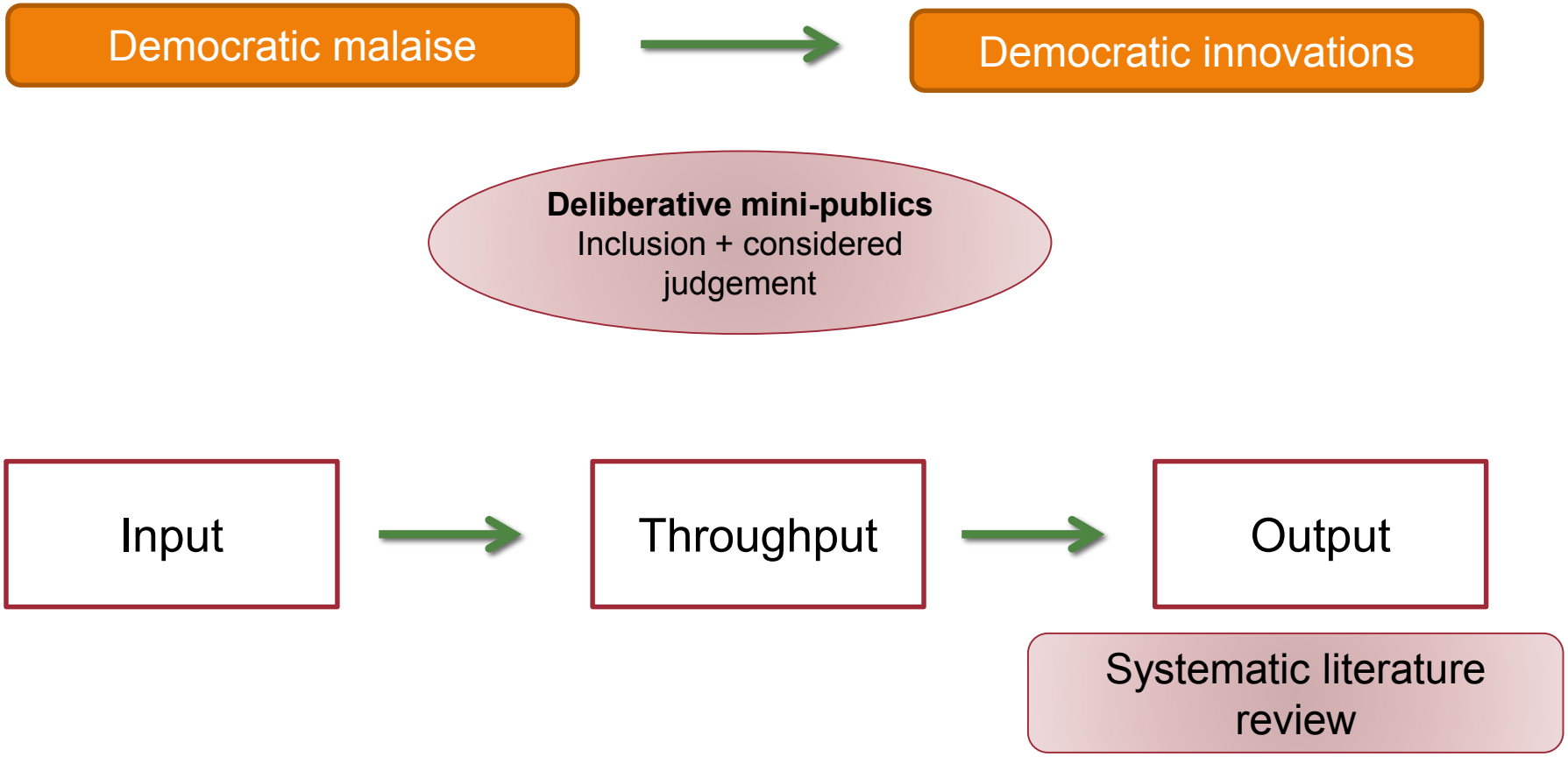
Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main
25 - 28 September 2018

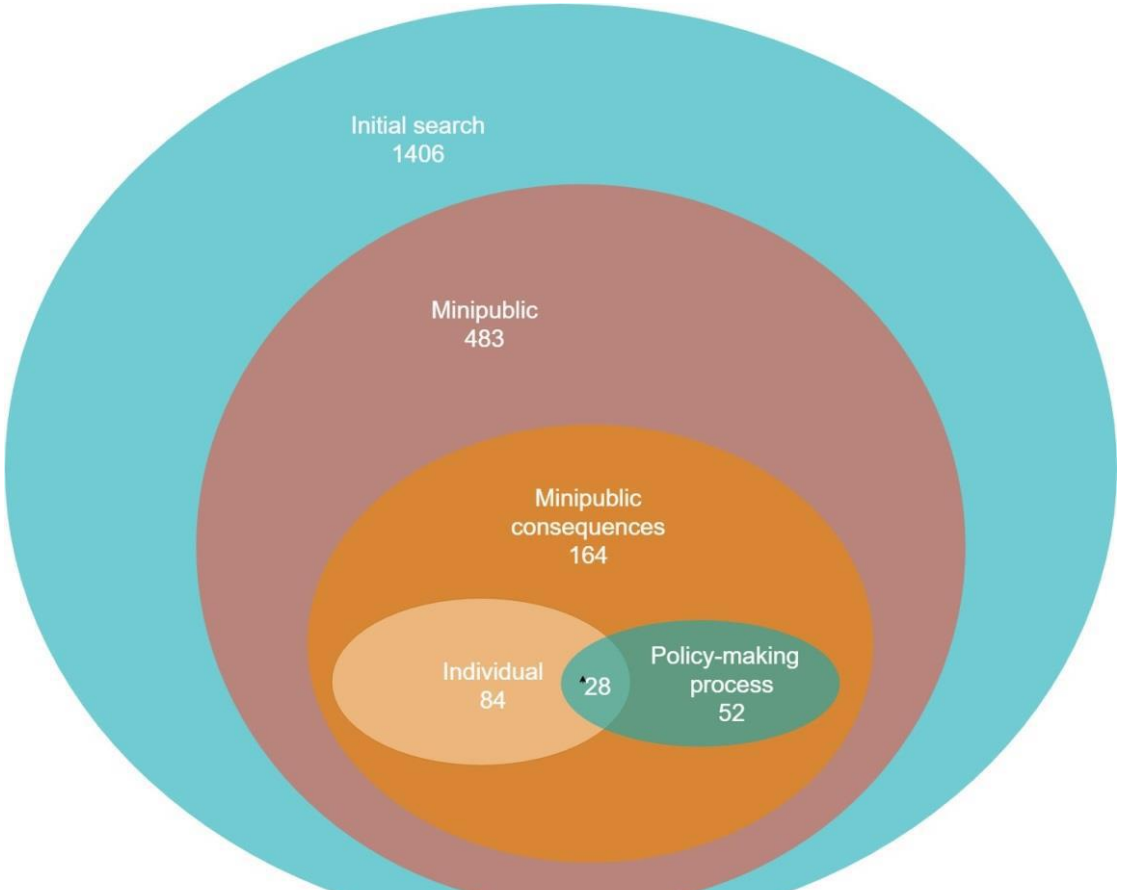
Main puzzle



- ***RQ*: How are minipublics' *consequences* conceptualized, analyzed and explained ?**

Systematic literature review

‘minipublic*’ OR ‘minipublic*’ OR ‘deliberative poll*’ OR ‘planning cell*’ OR ‘citizen* jur*’ OR ‘citizen* assmebl*’ OR ‘citizen* panel*’ OR ‘issue* forum*’ ‘twenty-first century town meeting*’ OR ‘consensus conference*’



Citizens consequences

- What is expected ? Changes in:
  - **Dispositions**: Policy preferences, Information, Trust, Tolerance, Common identity
  - **Skills:** Internal and external political efficacy
  - **Behavior:** civic and political participation
- Lots of empirical evidences
- But how and why does individual evolution occur ?
  - Causal mechanisms?
  - Before, during, after ?
  - Real behavior ?
  - Long term ?

Policy-making consequences I

- Theoretical debate
  - The debate about decision-making (Fishkin vs. Lafont)
  - Beyond decision-making
    - Communication citizens – elites (Setälä, 2017; Hendriks, 2016)
    - Clarify the public debate (Niemeyer, 2014)
    - Deliberation-making, seeking legitimacy, and capacity buildings (Curato, Böker, 2016)
    - Criticize mainstream position (Lafont, 2017)

Policy-making consequences II

- Mixed empirical evidence
  - Full implementation → no consequence
  - Debate in the public sphere
- Three main explanations
  - Design
  - Political culture
  - Elites' rationality
- Further development
  - Conceptual: Recommendation use vs. Systemic impact
  - Methodological: Process-tracing, quantitative text analysis, comparative research design

- Thank you