Critical Perspectives on the World Summit on the Information Society:

Civil Society Participation and Issues
Civil Society Declaration expressed a commitment to:

“building information and communication societies that are people-centred, inclusive and equitable”
Civil Society’s Information Society Vision

- Where everyone can freely create, access, utilise, share and disseminate information and knowledge ...
- Founded on the principles of social, political and economic justice, and people’s full participation and empowerment ...
- That pursue the objectives of sustainable development, democracy and gender equality ...
- Where development is framed by fundamental human rights ...
Steps to Translating the Vision into WSIS process & outcomes

- Translation of broad aims into specific policy goals relating to issues such as ‘access’, ‘connectivity’, ‘content regulation’ …
- Engaging with other Civil Society participants’ concerns and priorities …
- Engaging with other WSIS participants’ concerns and priorities …
- Working within the WSIS process …
Opportunities for Dialogue and Reflection

- Academic analysis of how different CS actors framed their discussions of governance and how this related to other actors
- Academic analysis of different ways of exercising (and constraining) power to analyse forms of participation
- Civil society reasons for participating (or not), experience of the process and outcomes