THE “NITTY GRITTY” OF CRITICAL COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Overview

- Introductions
- Workshop objectives
- Guiding principles (a reminder)
- The “nitty gritty” over the life of a project
  - Initiating (community entry)
  - Partner (and project) maintenance
  - Evaluation and assessment
- Questions and discussion
Workshop questions

- What are some promising practices for implementing critical CES with integrity at all stages of a collaboration or project?
- What are examples of how general principles can guide specific practices across a collaboration?
- What can be done when something goes sideways? (because something always goes sideways...)
- What next step can I take in a partnership I’m exploring or involved with?
Critical [decolonizing] community engaged scholarship (CCES) guiding principles

- Practice reflexivity, responsivity, reverence, reciprocity, respect, responsibility, and relationality (Levac et al., 2018)

- “...[believe] that knowledge acquired in the academic setting is strengthened and enhanced by the real world experience found in communities...” (Whiteford & Strom, 2013, p. 72).

- Approach CCES as an *orientation* to research

- Commit to the relationship, not just the project

- Understand that communities (and collaborations) are heterogenous and imbued with power relations (e.g., Wallerstein & Duran, 2006; Tobias et al., 2013)
The “nitty gritty”: “Initiating”

Terms of reference (excerpt)

Sharing of information and resources
Shared electronically through email

Accountability
The chair of any subcommittee will make a verbal report on activities at each meeting of the Advisory Group.

Guiding Principles
- Project partners are committed to the ethics principles and review process set forth in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. We also draw upon CRIAW’s related policies.
- We are committed to practicing intersectional feminist principles in all processes and products of our work.
- We are committed to learning and building knowledge together.
- We are committed to contributing in a variety of ways and forms, as necessary, to support those goals/objectives.
- We will communicate openly, sharing all relevant information, knowledge, rationales, decisions and feelings.
- We will actively listen to diverse and divergent points of view, and

Terms of reference (sample contents)

- Committee purpose
- Membership
- Timeline and approach to work
- Workplan
- Output(s)
- Method(s) for sharing information
- Accountability
- Guiding principles
- Dispute resolution process
- Authorship guidelines
The “nitty gritty”: “Initiating” discussion

- What specific strategies have you found useful when initiating partnerships?
- Do you have any “cautionary tales” to share with regards to initiating collaborations?
The “nitty gritty”: “Partnership maintenance” (example governance structure)

Changing Public Services Network

CRIAW
- website
- knowledge mobilization strategy
- organizational and leadership structures

U of G Financial Mgmt.

U of O Space

National Unions Public Service Partners

Regional Teams
- participatory process to track and monitor impact of changing public services on diverse women in region

Ottawa-Hull (NCR)

Saskatoon (Prairies)

Vancouver (BC)

Halifax (Atlantic)
**“Partnership maintenance”: Mutual assistance pact (excerpt)**

**Terms of Agreement:** It is important that everyone who participates in the research understands the details of the project, benefits from participating, and has a say in important components of the research. Completing this document means that you have read, or heard, everything written above. This table outlines the agreement between you and the university researchers [table will only include “members of the university research team” and whichever role we are asking of the particular signatory].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Members</th>
<th>Participation Benefits/Conditions</th>
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| Members of the University Research Team (Deborah, Gail, Leah) | • opportunity to learn more about diverse women in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and develop research skills for working with diverse women in Northern communities  
• option to present research findings in academic environments (e.g., conferences, research journals)  
• option to present research findings in popular media (e.g., newspapers, websites, blogs) [Note: Some exceptions may apply based on agreement made with other members of research team] |
| Members of the Community Collaborative | • opportunity to review and comment on all presentations of research findings (academic and popular media)  
• opportunity to receive all products that result from this research  
• option of being named as a member of the community collaborative in academic presentations  
• $100/day for 5 days of participation (for up to 2 members who are not otherwise being paid)  
• other:  
• other: |
| Workshop Participants | • option of being named as the author/teller of any individual stories included in the research findings  
• option of having the recorded version of my story used in presentations  
• option of controlling who is allowed to share the stories you |
The “nitty gritty”: “Partnership maintenance” discussion

- What specific strategies have you found useful when maintaining partnerships?
- As a community partner, are there things that you wish had happened during a past research partnership that didn’t?
The “nitty gritty”: “Evaluation and assessment”

Evaluation framework development (excerpt of draft proposal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relationality</td>
<td>All of creation is interdependent and interconnected in complex and sometimes antagonistic ways.</td>
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<td>Reciprocity</td>
<td>We must value and engage with ways of knowing other than our own on an equal basis of exchange.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflexivity</td>
<td>Researchers must continuously examine their positions within existing power relations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respect</td>
<td>Research designed and directed by collaborators helps to ensure that the research is respectful of difference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reverence</td>
<td>Research should be informed by spiritual values and practices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsivity</td>
<td>Knowledge systems are fluid and responsive to change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Research should further social justice and holistic wellbeing.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Our goal**

In discussions with some members of the CVI Advisory Group, we have been thinking about the benefits of better understanding how, if, or to what extent we are applying these seven principles to our work in Kitimat and with the Haisla Nation. We would like to work together to develop and use a culturally responsive evaluation model to assess our use of these principles, and we want to do it in a principled way.

**Our research evaluation questions**

1. How or to what extent are we applying decolonizing research principles as we work to address the wellbeing of local women and their access to political power in Kitimat and the Haisla Nation?
2. How is it possible to evaluate our use of these principles, in a principled way?
The “nitty gritty”: “Evaluation and assessment” discussion

- What specific strategies have you found useful when evaluating partnerships?
- What challenges have you faced with partnership evaluation?
A handful of useful references


Questions and Discussion

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