

Tufts University Department of Urban & Environmental Policy and Planning

UEP 293-02: Community Practice Theory and Methods Fall 2015

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Wednesdays 9:00-11:30am @ Brown House classroom (97 Talbot Ave)

Office Hours: Wed's 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment

Description

This module introduces students to theoretical frameworks and methodologies for community-driven policy and planning practice. Students will be introduced to literature covering citizen participation, democratic practice, community organizing, social movements, and community action research. Case studies will be interwoven throughout to provide practical examples of methodologies at work. Special attention will be paid to the intercultural aspects of community practice, particularly looking at race, class, and gender.

Course Objectives

- 1) Introduce students to frameworks for understanding what community is, how it is (re)produced, and its role in driving policy and planning.
- 2) Introduce students to methods for community practice, including community organizing and social movements, community building, action research, and civic engagement/democratic practice.
- 3) Support students to examine the ways that power operates at community scale (among individuals and families, formal and informal groups, nonprofits, government, and the private sector) and the intercultural aspects of community practice, particularly in terms of race, class, and gender.
- 4) Create space for students to reflect deeply on their own identity and possible roles that they may play in community practice.

Course Reader

All the required readings will be available in a Course Reader at Gnomon Copy and through the internet or Tisch electronic journals.

Course Requirements and Assessment

1. Class Preparation and Participation (20%)

All students are expected to read and review the required materials before class and to participate fully in class discussions.

2. Reflective Journal (30%)

This Journal will consist of two postings of 500-1000 words (2-4 pages double spaced):

- Beginning of Course (due Nov 4, class 2): What does community mean to you? What are your learning goals for this course? How do you envision your role(s) in community practice?
- End of Course (due Dec 9): What have you learned in this course about community practice? How have your conceptions of community and your role in community practice changed since the beginning of the course (or not)?

3. Case Memo (50%)

Students working individually or in small groups will explore and analyze community practice in one current (or recently completed) community initiative. Students should choose either the Union United case in Somerville, the Boston Youth Participatory Budgeting process, or another case that they already have some familiarity with (and approved by the instructor). The case memo is an 8-10 page paper (double spaced) and is due December 9. It consists of the following components:

- Profile of initiative – summary of who, what, where, and why.
- Community context – basic background on the demographics, history, and issues relevant to the community.
- Stakeholder analysis and power map – descriptions of the relevant stakeholders and analysis of their relative capacities and resources.
- Interview with stakeholder or community practitioner [optional if working as an individual]
- Analysis – use the frameworks and concepts introduced in the course to analyze the dynamics of community practice. What are the ways that community is defined and used? What are the power dynamics among the stakeholders? How is community mobilized and organized? What are the roles of residents, nonprofits, and professionals?
- References – properly cite all sources.

Schedule

Week 1: Oct 28 Course Overview -- Conceptualizing Community

Course overview. What are your experiences, ideas, and ideals of community? Introduce range of ways that community is framed: public participation, civic engagement, community organizing, community building, social capital, etc.

Conceptualizing Community. What is community? How is it conceptualized in the social sciences, particularly in the community development field? What is social capital, and how is it related to community?

Readings (58 pgs)

DeFilippis, James, Robert Fisher, and Eric Shragge. 2010. "Chapter 1: Community and Its Discontents." In *Contesting Community: The Limits and Potential of Local Organizing*, 7-34. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Jennings, James. 2007. "Social Capital, Race, and the Future of Inner City Neighborhoods." In *Race, Neighborhoods, and the Misuse of Social Capital*, edited by James Jennings, 87-108. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Week 2: Nov 4 Democracy and Community -- Case: Union United Somerville

What is relationship between democracy and community? What are ways of “deepening democracy”? How do marginalization and precarity (uneven power relations and race/class/citizenship) affect civic participation?

Case of Union United and development of Union Square Somerville. Guest: Union United representatives.

Due: Reflective Journal 1

Readings (76 pgs)

Fung, Archon and Erik Olin Wright. 2003. “Chapter 1: Thinking about Empowered Participatory Governance.” *Deepening Democracy: Institutional Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance*, 3-42. London: Verso. Available at: <http://archonfung.net/docs/DeepeningDemocracyAll.pdf>

Ostrander, Susan. 2013. *Citizenship and Governance in a Changing City: Somerville, MA*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Chapter 5: Immigrant Civic and Political Engagement, 81-105.

Union United website: <http://www.unionunitedsomerville.com/> -- read About Us page and browse rest of site.

Sacchi, Joseph, Maria Martinez, Patrick Kelsey, and Sarah Jimenez. 2014. *Development and Its Discontents: Commercial Gentrification in Somerville’s Union Square*. Tufts UEP Field Project prepared for Somerville Community Corporation. Pp 18-31. Available at: http://ase.tufts.edu/uep/degrees/field_project_reports/2014/Team8SCC.pdf

Week 3: Nov 10 (TUESDAY) Community Organizing and Social Movements

History and models of modern community organizing. The Alinsky school of organizing and its critics. Popular education, community building, and network models of organizing and social movements.

Readings (93 pgs)

DeFilippis, James, Robert Fisher, and Eric Shragge. 2010. “Chapter 2: History Matters: Canons, Anticanons, and Critical Lessons from the Past.” In *Contesting Community: The Limits and Potential of Local Organizing*, 35-66. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Smock, Kristina. 2004. *Democracy in Action: Community Organizing and Urban Change*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 2: Models of Community Organizing: An Overview, 10-36.

Calpotura, Francis. “Letters to Alinsky,” *ColorLines*, Winter 2000-2001, 8-11.

Horton, Myles and Paulo Freire. 1990. *We Make the Road by Walking: Conversations on Education and Organizing*. Edited by Brenda Bell, John Gaventa, and John Peters. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Charismatic leaders (109-114), Education and Organizing (115-127), Expert (128-130).

Traynor, Bill. 2008. “Community Building.” In *The Community Development Reader*, edited by James DeFilippis and Susan Saegert, 214-224. New York: Routledge.

Castells, Manuel. 2012. *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press. Opening, 1-19.

Week 4: Nov 18 Community Knowledge -- Professionals in Community Practice

Community Knowledge. What is the role of local knowledge in community practice? Introduce Participatory Action Research and some models of community-university partnerships based on this model.

Professionals in community practice. What roles do professionals play? What are the challenges and opportunities for professionals in government and intermediary organizations working at the community level? What cultural competencies are important for effective community practice?

Guest: Wilnelia Rivera

Readings (95 pgs)

Gaventa, John and Andrea Cornwall. 2000. "Power and Knowledge," in *Handbook of Action Research* edited by Peter Reason and Hilary Bradbury, 71-82.

McNiff, Jean and Jack Whitehead. 2006. *All You Need to Know About Action Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Chapters 1-3, 7-35.

Bratt, Rachel G. and Kenneth M. Reardon. 2013. "Beyond the Ladder: New Ideas About Resident Roles in Contemporary Community Development in the United States." In *Policy, Planning, and People: Promoting Justice in Urban Development* edited by Naomi Carmon and Susan S. Fainstein, 356-381. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Vasquez, Leonardo. 2009. "Principles of culturally competent planning and placemaking." The Placemaker's Advisor [blog]. Published November 11, 2009. Available at: <http://placemakerhub.blogspot.com/2009/11/principles-of-culturally-competent.html>

Young, Iris Marion. 2004. Five Faces of Oppression, in *Oppression, Privilege, & Resistance* edited by Lisa Heldke and Peg O'Connor. New York: McGraw Hill. 37-63.

Week 5: Dec 2 Nonprofits and Community – Regions and Coalitions

Nonprofits. Role of nonprofits in community practice. Implications of nonprofit structure and funding for communities and social change. Nonprofit industrial complex.

Regions and Coalitions. How are communities situated within regions? What is the role of coalitions in community practice? Introduce regional equity.

Readings (73 pgs)

Pastor, Manuel, Chris Benner, and Martha Matsuoka. 2011. For what it's worth: regional equity, community organizing, and metropolitan America. *Community Development*, 42(4): 437-457. Available via Tisch electronic journals.

Clark, Jennifer and Susan Christopherson. 2009. Integrating Investment and Equity: A Critical Regionalist Agenda for a Progressive Regionalism. *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 28:341-354. Available via Tisch electronic journals.

Rodriguez, Dylan. 2007. "The political logic of the non-profit industrial complex," in *The Revolution Will Not be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex* edited by Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, 21-40. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Roelofs, Joan. 2006. "The Third Sector as a Protective Layer for Capitalism." *Nonprofit Quarterly* [online], September 21, 2006. Accessible at: <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/philanthropy/618-the-third-sector-as-a-protective-layer-for-capitalism.html>.

Kania, John and Mark Kramer. 2011. *Collective Impact*. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Winter 2011, 36-41. Accessible at: http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/collective_impact

Chavis, David. 2001. The Paradoxes and Promises of Community Coalitions. *American Journal of Community Psychology* 29(2), 309-320.

Week 6: Dec 9 Community Technology -- Case Study: Boston Youth Participatory Budgeting

Community Technology. How are the internet and social media affecting community practice? How are these new technologies being used for public participation and civic engagement? Digital games and virtual realities for policy and planning.

Case study of the 2014 Youth Participatory Budget process in Boston. Guests: Aaron Tanaka, UEP Visiting Practitioner & Center for Economic Democracy, and Abi Vladeck, City of Boston

Due: Reflective Journal 2 and Case Memo

Readings (68 pgs)

Hollander, Justin B. and Amelie Hecht. 2012. "Virtual citizen engagement process for the Gilman Square Area in Somerville, Massachusetts: Final Report." Tufts University Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning. 18 pages. Available at: <http://somerville.open-neighborhood.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/13/files/2012/01/Gilman-Square-Final-Report-1-20121.pdf>

Gordon, Eric. February 1, 2013. "Beyond Participation: Designing for the Civic Web." *Journal of Digital and Media Literacy*. Available at: <http://www.jodml.org/2013/02/01/design-for-civic-web/>

Browse Engagement Lab at <http://engagementgamelab.org/>

Grillos, Tara. August 2014. *Youth Lead the Change: The City of Boston's Youth-Focused Participatory Budgeting Process Pilot Year Evaluation*. 37 pgs.

Boston "Youth Lead the Change" website for the participatory budgeting project: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/youthzone/youthleadthechange/>. Watch both short videos on the About page and browse the rest.

Kasdan, Alexa and Lindsay Cattell. Sep. 2012. "A People's Budget: A Research and Evaluation Report on the Pilot Year of Participatory Budgeting in New York City." Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, pages 5-9. <http://cdp-ny.org/report/pbreport.pdf>