



@advancingresearch #AR2022
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DOWN TO THE ROOT: THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO POWER/LEAST POWER

Radical Participatory Research: Decolonizing Participatory Processes

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What if RESEARCH is just
GATHERING, CREATING, STORING,
(ANALYZING,) TRANSMITTING,
OR USING INFORMATION

Greetings from Washington, D.C.
original home of the NACOTCHTANK,
a people group who, due to
persecution, relocated to a
tiny island in the Potomac River.
Due to further persecution they were
taken in by a neighboring tribe in
Maryland and eventually migrated
to Pennsylvania.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
DON'T CHANGE ALLOCATION OF
POWER OR RESOURCES...
"We cannot talk about
alternative futures w/o
talking about alternative
PASTS."

IMPORTANT at the MYTHOLOGICAL
LEVEL... TRUE or FALSE DOESN'T
MATTER (in an enlightenment sense)
What matters is whether it is
LIVING or DEAD.

There is a mythology
around the HISTORY of
PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH
Let's unhouse and unsettle that!

What is PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

"COLLABORATIVE
ACTION
RESEARCH"

for some, a RESEARCH METHOD
or way of doing a METHOD

METHODOLOGY
principles/philosophy

Facilitation
DESIGN
RESEARCHER



is POWER.
We choose:
who is there,
why, when,
where, and
how.

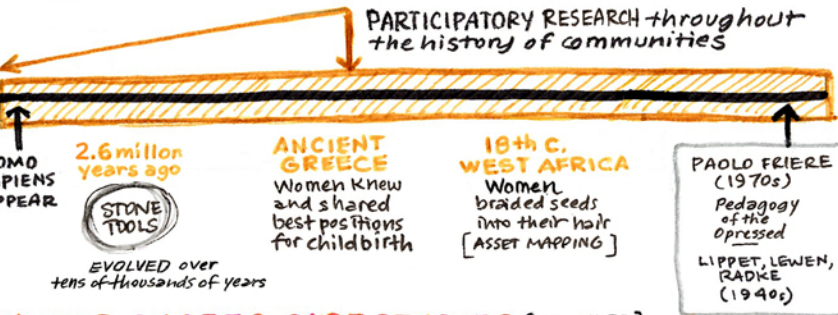
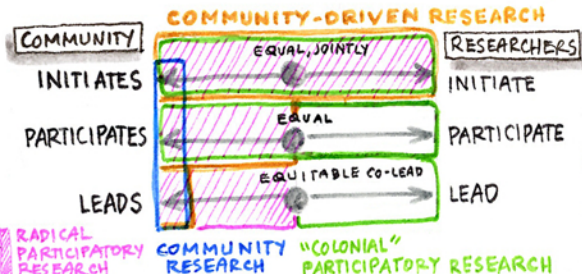


Requirements for RADICAL PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

- 1 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS
PRESENT and LEADING full-fledged
members of research team
throughout the process
- 2 COMMUNITY MEMBERS OUTNUMBER
PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHERS
- 3 COMMUNITY MEMBERS OWN the ARTIFACTS,
NARRATIVES, and OUTCOMES of the ARTIFACTS



KNOWLEDGE IN THE WORLD



VICTOR SHARES CASE STUDIES [SEE VIDEO] to illustrate Benefits

- 1 INCLUSIVE RESEARCH The community knows best how to recruit
and include community members. INCLUSIVE RESEARCH → INCLUSIVE TEAM → INCLUSIVE RECRUITMENT
- 2 HUMAN-CENTERED RESEARCH The best way to center the research
process on the community for whom you are designing is Radical
Participatory Research HCR → SOCIETY- & PLANET-CENTERED RESEARCH
- 3 EMPATHY Stop pursuing it. You won't find it, due to inherent
power dynamics • INTELLECTUAL EMPATHY: KNOWFACTS • EMOTIONAL EMPATHY: rare
• COMPASSIONATE EMPATHY: moved to act COMPONENT PARTS OF EMPATHY
- 4 TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE RESEARCH The components of a trauma-informed
approach are embedded in your process when the community is
participating fully and fully leading. SEE DIAGRAM IN SLIDES/VIDEO
- 5 RESEARCH THROUGH DESIGN Communities often use design as
an exploratory research tool. COMMUNITY DIRECTION → NON LINEARITY OF
RESEARCH & DESIGN PROCESS
- 6 SYSTEMS RESEARCH Communities tend to be in tune with
Socio-natural systems SYSTEM KNOWLEDGE IS EMBEDDED IN COMMUNITIES
- 7 PLURIVERSAL & FUTURES RESEARCH Communities can define
for themselves what is the good life
DAMAGE-CENTERED RESEARCH → DESIRE-BASED RESEARCH
ASSET-BASED METHODOLOGIES