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How Community-Based Research is implemented with marginalized populations – Part 2: Immigrant and Refugee families

Three-part Webinar Series brought to you by Community-Based Research Canada

www.communityresearchcanada.ca

Nov, 23, 2018
We Want to Hear from You!
Presenter

Dr. Rich Janzen
WHAT WE’LL COVER TODAY

Overview of this growing area of research
Overview of community-based research
Common challenges when researching with immigrants/refugees
Helpful strategies when researching with immigrants/refugees
Balancing academic excellence with community relevance since 1982

Non-profit organization on the University of Waterloo campus

400+ projects on a range of societal issues; over 70 projects with immigrants and refugees

Entrepreneurial spirit - eligible for academic funding
IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES: A GROWING AREA OF RESEARCH

• Canada has had sustained high levels of immigration for two decades

• Future immigration targets anticipate levels not seen in a century

• The diversity of immigrants and refugees has grown since the 1970’s, now arriving from 200 countries each year

• Academic funded research has been bolstered by the Metropolis movement and by targeted SSHRC calls (eg Syrian refugees)

• Non-academic funded research encouraged by a desire for good community planning and funder demands for accountability

• Researchers recognizing the vulnerability of some newcomers (eg refugees, children), while honouring the dignity of all newcomers
DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS: CCBR

Type of Research
- Evaluating established programs and innovation
- Needs and resource assessment
- Policy research
- Feasibility studies
- Community/systems analysis
- Strategic planning

Topic of Research
- Settlement/resettlement
- Immigrant employment
- Community integration/inclusion
- Immigrant youth
- Refugee claimants
- Mental health
- Immigrant parenting
- Hate crimes
- Inter-ethnic conflict
- Language training
- Pre-arrival
SAMPLE COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS: CCBR

- The impact of the Syrian refugee influx on local systems of support
- Role of churches in immigrant settlement and integration
- Evaluation of Reception House
- Inter-ethnic youth violence
- Faith and settlement partnerships
- Taking culture seriously in community mental health
- Refugee claimant needs assessment
- Immigrant youth in high school
- Making Ontario Home survey
- Ontario immigrant parenting study
- Evaluation of hate crime prevention
- Access to professions and trades
- Developing local immigration partnerships
Hallmarks of Community-Based Research

Research that strives to be....

**Community-Driven**
 Begins with a research topic of practical relevance to the community (as opposed to researchers) and leads to community self-determination

**Participatory**
 Community stakeholders and researchers equitably share control of the evaluation agenda through active and reciprocal involvement in the design, implementation and dissemination

**Action-Oriented**
 The research process and results are useful to stakeholders in making positive social change
Functions of Community-Based Research

Knowledge Production
Gaining new insights through systematic and rigorous research

Knowledge Mobilization
Sharing and communicating what has been learned in ways that enable people to use the research results

Community Mobilization
Building stronger relationships among stakeholders so that they are better equipped to use research learnings to address societal issues
FOUR PHASES OF COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

#1 Laying the Foundations

Relational:
- Negotiating the mobilization of knowledge and communities

Technical:
- Sharing information
- Acting on the results

#2 Planning

Relational:
- Negotiating goals and roles

Technical:
- Organizing a stakeholder steering group and clarifying roles
- Identifying assumptions about research
- Highlighting the context of the situation
- Identifying the purpose of research

#3 Information Gathering/Analysis

Relational:
- Negotiating meaning and learning

Technical:
- Gathering information
- Analyzing and interpreting

#4 Acting on Findings

Relational:
- Negotiating perspectives to illuminate

Technical:
- Determining the research questions
- Developing methods for collecting information
- Developing an analysis plan
COMMON CHALLENGES:
RESEARCHING WITH IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Affirming both Individual Uniqueness and Shared Humanity

• Gaining trust as an outsider/insider
• Confronting diverse assumptions about research
• Addressing limited evaluation capacity
• Navigating multiple agendas
• Managing language diversity
• Incorporating diverse ways of knowing
• Ensuring free and informed consent
• Being lost in data analysis translation
• Sharing results in an engaging way
• Managing raised expectations
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

CBR Hallmarks
- Community-driven
- Participatory
- Action-oriented

CBR Functions
- Knowledge production
- Knowledge mobilization
- Community mobilization

RESEARCH PROCESS:
HELPFUL STRATEGIES

Community Soundings
• Identifying relevance of research with gatekeepers
• Identifying nuances among stakeholders

Stakeholder Steering Group
• Providing guidance and “conscience”
• Facilitating cross-stakeholder perspectives

Diversity on Research Teams
• Including people with lived experience
• Privileging community mobilization skills

Ongoing Training and Support
• Equipping researchers for consistency
• Equipping community partners for deeper engagement
Agreed Upon Purpose
- Crafting a mutually agreed purpose statement
- Negotiating main research questions

Data Gathering
- Including people with lived experience, culture, language
- Inviting ethical review that considers community harm (e.g., CREO)

Data Analysis
- Holding multiple rounds of analysis
- Using common analysis templates across communities
Clear and Creative Summaries
• Crafting digestible written summaries
• Commissioning theatre performances

Community Forums & Events
• Sharing & verifying results
• Discussing & prioritizing solutions
• Led by community partners and community researchers

Plans for Future Action
• Deciding on comprehensive response or micro projects
• Determining next cycles of research with more engagement
FUTURE CONTACT

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