Applying Research Justice Principles to Community-Based Participatory Research: Learnings from the Survivor-Centered Advocacy Project

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Overview

Section I
- Why Research?
- Research Justice
- The SCA Project
- CBPR Approach

Section II
- Overview of Research Methods
- Try it! (Developing a Research Idea)
What do you think of when you hear the word “research”?
Investigate critical issues affecting our communities (Superfund, dioxin)

As Principal Investigators, we control research q’s & funds

We define which outcomes are important

Tool for consciousness-raising in our communities

Disaggregated data spotlights communities who need investments / inclusion

Grounded in our realities & lived experiences - not theoretical

How do we keep the good without the bad or ugly?

Photo credits: Maeve Mabel by Dr. Carrie Lippy and Rascal Deux by Justin Sullivan / Getty Images
Considerations for Creating Research Projects

Key Questions:
- **What** do we want to know?
- To benefit **whom**?
- **Who** asks the questions?
- Who are the **experts**?
- What is the relationship between those **asking** and those **answering**?
- Who gets **access** to new knowledge?
- Who gets the **resources**?

Shifting the Balance of Power in Research

Shared Research Agenda

- Researchers
- Advocates
- Survivors
- Policymakers
- Community
- Advocates
- Survivors

Slide credit: Dr. Mimi Kim
Moving Beyond CBPR

Shared Research Agenda

- Advocates
- Community/Survivors
- Researchers
- Policymakers

Research Justice

Strategic framework that aims to address and transform structural inequities in research by centering community voices and leadership as a pathway to meaningful and long-term social change

Research Justice

- Research driven by communities
- Confronts institutional barriers to information (e.g., open access journals)
- Communities challenge & retool power structures in research processes
- Community-generated solutions in public policy & decision-making
- Equal power and legitimacy to different sources of knowledge, weaving together mainstream or institutional knowledge with cultural, spiritual, and experiential ("lived experience") knowledge


We are the ones we have been waiting for!

Image from the Solidarity Research Center http://solidarityresearch.org/project/research-justice/
Except from poem by June Jordan, Poem for South African Women
Have you ever participated in research?
SCA Project: Goals

- Share and build knowledge about survivor-centered advocacy (SCA)
- Expand the capacity of the field and of communities to do community-based participatory research – in communities, by communities
- Shift power to those most affected by the problem
- Generate data that promotes survivor-centered advocacy that lifts up and supports marginalized communities
The Research Process

Inquiry & Design → Implement → Collect Data

→ Analyze Data → Present Findings

???
Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR): Definition

“…inquiry with the participation of those affected by an issue for the purpose of education and action for effecting change.”


SCA Project: Process

1) Co-create CBPR Principles & Agreements
2) Recognize Community Researchers’ Knowledge & Skills
3) Scaffold Capacity-Building on Existing Knowledge & Skills
CBPR Principles & Agreements [shortened]

1) **Transparency** in all stages of a project, including who is involved...
2) **Collaboration and decision-making.**
3) **Balancing of mutual accountability** of researchers to participants, of participants to researchers, of participants to community, etc.
4) **Community/participants as experts.**
5) **Center those most impacted.**
6) **Center practices that are trauma-informed/trauma-mitigating.**
7) **Center anti-oppression principles and frameworks.**
8) **Participants/community members own their own data.**
9) **Build in self-reflection and consciousness-raising practices to examine our own dominant culture/oppressive habits.**

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Recognize Community Researchers’ Knowledge & Skills
SCA Example

- Shared Identity
- Historical Trauma
- Community Priorities
- Cultural Context & Beliefs

Scaffold Capacity- Building on Existing Knowledge & Skills

- Shared Identity
- Robust Recruitment
- Community Dissemination
- Language Fluency
**SCA Example**

**Skills many DV advocates / practitioners already have:**
- Support groups → Focus groups
- Intake → In-depth interviews
- Policy advocacy → Storytelling
- Confidentiality & Consent → Research ethics

**Areas that may require more in-depth capacity building:**
- Qualitative coding & quantitative analysis
- Survey question construction
- Cognitive switch from advocacy to research
Questions?

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Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research Methods

General Community Survey: Knowledge of Survivors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Many (%)</th>
<th>Some (%)</th>
<th>Few (%)</th>
<th>Never (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you know of any Korean woman who has been slapped, hit, kicked, or suffered any physical injury by her husband or boyfriend? How many?</td>
<td>313 (10)</td>
<td>56 (17.9)</td>
<td>65 (20.8)</td>
<td>182 (58.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you know of any Korean woman whose husband or boyfriend insults or humiliates her regularly?</td>
<td>277 (10)</td>
<td>54 (19.5)</td>
<td>75 (27.1)</td>
<td>138 (49.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Quotes”

A. Frequently
B. Somewhat Frequently
C. Not often
D. Not at all
E. Don’t Know

Count: 48 (92%)
Count: 5 (2%)
Count: 1 (1%)
### Quantitative Research vs. Qualitative Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Quantitative Research</strong></th>
<th><strong>Qualitative Research</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can be counted or quantified</td>
<td>Can’t be easily counted or quantified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use statistical analyses</td>
<td>Use thematic analyses (and others)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed-ended questions &amp; responses</td>
<td>Open-ended questions &amp; responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yes/No (or other binaries)</td>
<td>• What do you think about...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Likert scales (e.g., Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)</td>
<td>• Why did you...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Income level</td>
<td>• How would you...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relatively large # of participants (100+)</td>
<td>• Relatively small # of participants (&lt; 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community or population-level inquiry</td>
<td>• In-depth inquiry with small group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examples</strong></td>
<td><strong>Examples</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Surveys</td>
<td>• Focus groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluation forms</td>
<td>• In-depth interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Online polls</td>
<td>• Storytelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Need assessments</td>
<td>• Photovoice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Choose Your Adventure

- **Qualitative**
  - Focus group
  - Interviews
  - Storytelling

- **Quantitative**
  - Surveys
  - Needs Assessments
Qualitative Methods

Focus Groups

- 6-12 participants (8 is ideal), fairly homogeneous
- 1.5 - 2 hours (including setup & closure)
- Need skilled facilitator and note taker or recorder
- Takes advantage of group dynamics – disagreements, questioning, qualifications
- Mix of individual & collective opinions
- Insights into community norms (people say what they think they “should” say)
- Look for common themes/ differences
- Group session means confidentiality is less secure
- Less time- and resource-intensive
In-depth Interviews

- Usually one-on-one (strong confidentiality)
- Rapport with and trust of participant is critical (in-language preferred)
- Conversational, but with structured set of questions (= interview guide)
- Rich narratives with personal reflections on lived experiences
- May hear things you wouldn't hear in a group (≠ norms)
- More data = more time- and resource-intensive than focus groups
- Thematic analysis: systematically code data to identify themes within and across interviews (often use quotes to illustrate)

Storytelling

- Similar to interviews
- Find key question or short set of questions that can generate stories
- Stories are recorded or documented in some way so that they can be publicly shared
- Individual stories can reflect depth and unique qualities
- Easier to preserve “whole person”
- Analysis across stories can also reveal overall themes
Quantitative Methods

Surveys

- Often Likert (e.g., disagree – neutral – agree), check box, Yes/No response options
- Often combined with demographic + qualitative short answer questions
- Can assess where the community or respondents stand on certain issues (snapshot)
- Well-structured questions & responses are critical
  - No leading, confusing or double-barreled questions
  - No overlapping or missing responses (e.g., age choices are <10, or 11 or older)
  - Don’t exclude anyone & use community-driven terms (e.g., sexual orientation)
- Pre-test with a smaller group before opening it up more broadly
- Who takes your survey matters (e.g., “extremist website” surveys)
Needs (and Assets) Assessments

- Similar to survey, except almost always done to aid decision-making about specific action
- Asking community about what they consider to be their most important needs (and assets)
- Results guide future action – usually around most highly prioritized responses
- Pre-set list of questions & types of respondents desired
- Different methods: personal interview, phone, online or written response
- Helpful documentation for funding & advocacy
- Can set the stage for community mobilization & movement-building
- Can help resolve conflicts / build support about which issue to tackle first


Creating Positive Research Experiences

- Thinking about participants’ care, comfort and concerns in preparation, during and after the “data collection”
- Being prepared – providing for your own self-care
- Providing food & other things for nurturing, care & comfort
- Providing meaningful incentives
- Showing gratitude before, during and after
- Following up as you have promised
- Being responsive to followup requests that participants may have

Slide credit: Dr. Mimi Kim
Workshop Your Research Ideas

- Propose your research question(s)
- Identify who will participate in your research
- Choose appropriate method(s)
- Identify leaders & supporters in your group and community
- Think about what resources you’ll need and how you might get them

What Did You Come Up With?
Resources

Available now:
- Power through Partnerships: A CBPR Toolkit for Domestic Violence Researchers: https://cbprtoolkit.org/
- Community Toolbox (English, Spanish & Arabic): http://ctb.ku.edu/

Forthcoming:
- SCA page coming soon to the API-GBV website! www.api-gbv.org/

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Thank You!

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Evaluation

We appreciate your feedback!