Hi. This may come as self promotion. But I think this group may be interested in a recent co-authored piece of mine: “Rights Beyond Words: Mapping Human Rights Scholar-Organization Partnerships”

Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat, Shareen Hertel
Human Rights Quarterly
Johns Hopkins University Press
Volume 45, Number 2, May 2023
pp. 239-259
10.1353/hrq.2023.0012

Great to hear a biblio is being built. Prior classes have built a list of readings, so please contact those ICER classes for their readings. Or contact me with my lists.

I see I can send you the article Doug

My “Care Activism” book that just came out:
https://www.press.uiillinois.edu/books/?id=p087400

And here is Eve Tuck’s work asking us academics not to enforce “damage-centred” work that pathologizes communities: https://pages.ucsd.edu/~rfrank/class_web/ES-114A/Week%204/TuckHEdR79-3.pdf

Thanks, Ethel.

I want to signal boost that point: if you work with a community, you should go back and share your findings with them. Let them see your conclusions and ask questions. Benefits both sides.

Here's one... I'm a political sociologist at LSU. I began by working on democratization (esp Germany after 1945 & 1989), and in recent decades, community in the US. I worked on community recovery from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, working with over 200 community groups, helped start an after school music program as a form of grass-roots mentoring for at-risk middle-school kids, a project on "neighborhood portraits" with interviews & photos. I’m interested in social capital & civic engagement (worked with Lipset, Linz, Verba, Jim Davis [GSS], Skocpol, Coleman, Putnam, WJ Wilson, etc). I'm a survey geek & also do ethnographic work. Various projects. See things at fweil.com. Thanks for this webinar!
Doug Hess: Great, Frederick.

To gain more acceptance, we need to have some APSA sponsored meetings with "high level" actors in the field. By that I mean Deans of schools, chairs of departments, directors of doctoral programs, and journal editors. We need to educate them on the growth, interest, intellectual thought, and examples, as well as the barriers.

Mike Rogers: Does it hurt or help the civic engagement research movement that civic engagement encompasses so many activities and so much can qualify as fitting under its umbrella? Does it need more of a defined domain of activities or is it okay that political engagement, community engagement, volunteerism, etc., are often labelled and included as civic engagement?

Doug Hess: Typical statements from institutional leaders that are "out of date" on engaged research are: 1. that's not research, 2. it's only research if it leads to a journal article or book, 3. you can do that after you get tenure. We need a firm statement from ASPA responding to those attitudes and to train institutional leaders to not give those responses.

Mike, that's a problem. I think if you see the articles that Adriano, I, and others from the first ICER cohort published a few years ago, you might find some answers there on how to define it.

The articles are in the journal PS in 2021:

Veronica Reyna: ^^^^^

Doug Hess: https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096521000676

See also excellent handbooks that Michigan Statue University has developed on how institutions can evaluate and appreciate engaged research.

Handbook at MSU (there may be new ones): http://outreach.msu.edu/documents/pod.pdf

Melissa Michelson: More on this as I tried to be super brief: doing civically engaged research can often mean years of building trust and relationships with community organizations and leaders, so if you're not yet tenured you should keep that in mind. Publications might take a while.

Frederick Weil: The chat has lots of great links, but it won't let me save the chat. Can it be made available later?

Doug Hess: Yes, Melissa. That's a huge problem and ways for pre-tenure faculty can get credit and document their engaged research before it leads to publication needs to be developed.

Ethel Tungohan: https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/journals/pp/50/3/article-p403.xml

Doug Hess: We need a list-serv for ICER cohorts to make sure support is there.
Melissa Michelson: One way is documenting experiential learning that you’re giving your students - comes under teaching instead of research, but it’s a best practice especially for retention and academic success

Involvement with community organizations can also be reported as external service that serves as PR for the institution

Lauren Bell: The American Review of Public Administration is also interested in citizen participation/deliberative democracy work.

Doug Hess: External service can be a problem as it pigeonholes engaged research as "not research."

Adriano Udani (he/him): +1 Melissa. Relationships take a lot of time and shouldn’t be rushed.

Maggie Commins: Great points, Melissa. And, if you’re in an institution that values SoTL research publications, you can pursue these.

Bilal Sekou, Ph.D.: I wrote an endorsement for a book by Richard Davis which may be of interest to this group, “Beyond the Ivory Tower: The Case for Civically Engaged Political Scientists.”

Sally Cohen: What is the relationship between civically engaged research and community based participatory research?

Laurel Elder: Absolutely wonderful presentation and conversation—thank you!

Doug Hess: Also, consider courses in your policy school. Some training on how policy is made, how problems are identified and defined, and how policies are evaluated are vital for engaged research. Policy schools don't always train people in participatory approaches, but courses in the topics can be vital.

Adriano Udani (he/him): The Hess and Bullock PS article argues that CER prioritizes reciprocity as important and its focus on governance.

Doug Hess: It's vital to know that the field of evaluation has evolved dramatically in the past decade and is not the same as just applying methods to social problems. A lot of poli sci research on policy effects takes an approach that is 20 years behind how program evaluators would approach it.

See also, for some insight on how to promote diversity, sensitivity, and context in evaluations: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/puar.13688

Frederick Weil: Funny thought about IRB. We’re usually concerned with confidentiality, but some community groups actually want publicity! See Helen Regis’ work on social aid & pleasure clubs in Nola.
Doug Hess: Can the Zoom managers save the chat and send it around (with permissions) or edit it and send the links around? As others noted, it's not possible in Zoom for participants to save chat.

Sally Cohen: Community based participatory research (CBPR) is different from participatory research. CBPR requires engagement of members of the community as members of the research team. Hence, it's connection (as I see it) to civically engaged research.

Melissa Michelson: To Frederick’s point, some groups find that being affiliated with an academic project raises their visibility and their validity, and can help in fundraising. That is one of the points I make when building new connections: that my report/analysis can then be used by the organization to show funders that their work is making a difference.

Nafisa Tanjeem: In case anyone is interested in a decolonial feminist critique of university-community engagement, this article came out a few months ago - https://esj.usask.ca/index.php/esj/article/view/70779/54264

Bilal Sekou, Ph.D.: I think it’s also important to recognize a kind of scholarship of engagement that involves the exchange of knowledge and resources with the broader community - recognizing involvement in organizations, interviews in the media, participating on panels and in other forums. Especially as a scholar of color, we’re often called upon to do this public intellectual work, but it’s not always recognized despite how it links our institutions to the larger community.

Melissa Michelson: I have been on editorial boards where these issues come up, which is just to say that editors at journals are aware and try to find ways to accept pieces for review that don’t require folks to disclose confidential information. We’re trying!

Doug Hess: That's important, Bilal. But we don't want to conflate engaged research with what some call "public scholarship." Of course, engaged research often leads to public scholarship roles (like interviews, speakers, and serving on boards), but we need to value both without conflating them.

Frederick Weil: One thing I've done that's been well received. If I work with a neighborhood association or ethnic organization & do a survey in their constituency, I give the group the full aggregated results so they can use them for their own purposes & work with them to interpret them. This both preserves individual confidentiality & serves community/researcher partnership.

Doug Hess: Please preserve the chat! :)

Clarissa Nogueira (APSA STAFF): Can confirm the chat will be preserved! -APSA Staff

Lauren Bell: lbell@rmc.edu

Melissa Michelson: Really not kidding. Email me 😊

Doug Hess: We need to develop a handbook focused on engaged research in poli sci. A few other fields have them, poli sci needs them.

Doug Hess: dougrhess@gmail.com
01:29:11 Ethel Tungohan: tungohan@Yorku.ca
01:29:19 Melissa Michelson: melissa.michelson@menlo.edu
01:29:34 Adriano Udani (he/him): udania@umsl.edu
01:29:39 Zehra Arat: Thank you all!
01:30:50 Doug Hess: Keep ICER going! Consider doing some version for senior faculty, deans, dept chairs, grad program directors, and journal editors.