Enhancing KT in CBR through a University Structure

Budd Hall, Office of Community-Based Research

University of Victoria

November 16-17, 2006

Knowledge Transfer Strategies for Community-Based Research

Victoria, B.C.

University of Victoria

My roots in CBR

Participatory Research in Tanzania-1970-74

World Assembly of Adult Education - 1976

Def: Participatory Research is a three-pronged process that combines social investigation, education and action

Participatory Research Group - 1976

International PR Network - 1977

Further background

Taught first course in Participatory Research at the University of Montreal - 1986

Introduced courses in Participatory Research to York University - 1988

Introduced Courses in Participatory Research at the OISE/UT

Co-founder of Transformative Learning Centre

Encouraging Institutional Change

Individual CBR projects

CURA and related projects

Teaching participatory research

Vancouver-Island Public Interest Research Group

Youth and Society and other Centres

University-wide Forum on CBR

Creation of Uvic Task Force on CBR

UVic Task Force on CBR

Peter Keller and Budd Hall, co-chairs

Kelly Bannister and Maeve Lydon, members

Peter Levesque and Lorna Williams, Advisors

A Scholarship of Engagement

Although researchers are successfully integrating their efforts at a European and even global level to address the increasing complexity of scientific inquiry, there appears to be a yawning gap between science and society at large

Rainer Gerold, Science and Society Director, European Commission

University-Community-Based Knowledge and Action: The Dynamic Triangle

Community-Based Research

Community-Based Continuing Education

Community-Based Service Learning-Coop
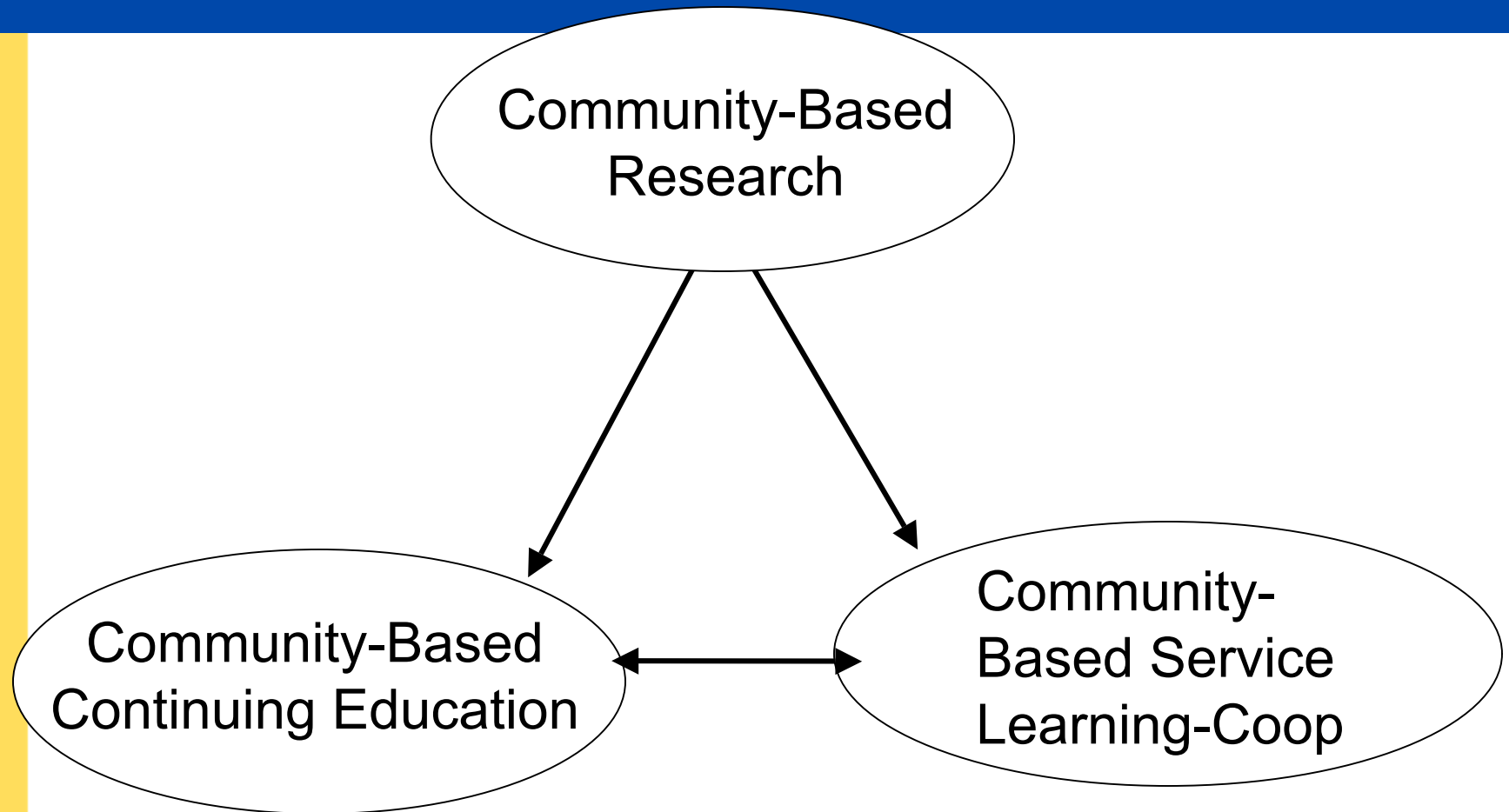
Ted Jackson 2005

What is Community-Based Research?

Community-based research (CBR) involves research done by community groups with or without the involvement of a university. In relation with the university CBR is a collaborative enterprise between academics and community members. CBR seeks to democratize knowledge creation by validating multiple sources of knowledge and promoting the use of multiple methods of discovery and dissemination. The goal of CBR is social action (broadly defined) for the purpose of achieving (directly or indirectly) social change and social justice. (Strand et al., 2003)

Examples: Canada

Trent Centre for Community Education

Wellesley Health Centre, Toronto

Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of Saskatchewan

Community Intervention Projects, Trois Rivieres

Centre for Urban Health Initiatives, Toronto

Centre for Community Innovation, Carleton

Examples: International

Community-University Partnership Project
(University of Brighton)

Centre for Research, Education and Action
(U of Barcelona)

Science Shops
(Europe)

Centre for Social Justice Research, Teaching and
Service (Alaska)

Survey results

300 hundred University and Community members surveyed using Survey Monkey

110 respondents (70/30 University-Community split

80 per cent willing to participate in a CBR structure

75 per cent agreed with the definition being used

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Aboriginal Consultations

- *If you mention research to people here, they will run away. We have been researched to death. Students come in here without any awareness of protocol, without an awareness of spiritual or cultural values. Graduate students come and go but we don't even see the final product. We have no clue as to where they are going with this information. Working together means building mutual respect and trust. We are not there yet as we are still healing. We still have to heal from the effects of some research. This needs to be understood by the university (*Marie Cooper, interview, 16 June 2006).

Tensions and Directions in CBR

Tensions

Community versus academy

Research versus action

Training students versus solving problems

Service versus social change

Directions

Integrate community-academy interests (eg. MOUs, joint publications)

Integrate research and action (put research funds in hands of community)

Shift students from charity to social-change work

Turn social service into social change

Stoeker, 2004

Interest by Funding Councils

SSHRC: CURA, Aboriginal Strategy, Boreas Programme

CIHR - CARS Grants

NSERT - Knowledge Mobilization and Crystal funding

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Community Funding Opportunities

United Way

Van City Credit Union

Victoria Foundation

Individual donors

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Foundations with CBR interests

Charles Leopold Meyer Foundation

European Union

McConnell Family Foundation

Rockerfeller Brothers

Ford Foundation

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

Possible Functions and Activities of a University of Victoria Community-Based Research structure

Support, Visibility, Recognition

Do nothing already done by others at UVic

Support discussions on evaluation policies in faculties and departments

Expansion of opportunities for the involvement of undergraduate and graduate students

Workshops and public lectures that raise awareness

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Academic Programming

Development of regular and on-line courses in community-based research

Development and implementation of more field-based courses in community-based research in partnerships with community groups and First Nations.

A Minor interdisciplinary undergraduate option specializing in community-based scholarship.

Support to Community

An open window/door to community organizations and agencies to bring their research concerns and needs.

Funds to support visiting or limited term appointments of community scholars-in-residence

Small-scale grants to community-based organizations to initiate research projects in partnership with the university.

Development of instructional programmes/certificates that build capacity for research and partnership in the community.

Communication and Networking

A dedicated website

Regular contributions to newsletters and other venues

Support for formal peer refereed publication outlets on community-based research.

Assistance to community partners to share their research and evidence-based knowledge among other community groups.

Communication and Networking

A regular forum on community-based research.

Links national and international knowledge mobilization and networking organizations

Hosting meetings in support of community based research like the Community-University Expo conferences

Wiki-based, podcasts and related knowledge mobilization tools

Steering and External Advisory Committee

Steering Committee - Co-Chaired by Vice-President and Community Leader

10 members: half from Uvic (Deans, Centres, Aboriginal interests) and half from community (major agencies, varied sectors, Aboriginal communities)

External Advisory Committee - Chaired by major international figure composed Of national and international authorities in the field of community-based research

Staffing model

Director - Senior Academic

Assistant Director - from Community

Knowledge Mobilization Officer

Aboriginal programming capacity

Knowledge Exchange/Communications person

Building national networks

No university is an island: UVic will be transformed as other universities in Canada are transformed

What are the already existing networks?

What makes for an effective CBR support network?

Building national capacity

What policies are in place across Canada to support CBR in Universities?

How can CBR capacity within community organizations be strengthened?

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Whose knowledge counts?

How CB knowledge of marginalized populations validated?

What lessons can be drawn from the worlds of HIV/AIDS, Dis/ability, Aboriginal, Anti-racism, youth, women's movements?

Where are the arts, music, drama, video, rap, murals, poetry, drumming, film, novels in our KT/E processes?

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Global Networking

Living Knowledge Network, Europe

Par Research in Asia, India

Sciences Citoyennes, France

Popular Education Network, Scotland

Global Citizenship network, IDS Sussex

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, U.S.

Participatory Research Network, Senegal

Elsewhere?

Global questions?

How to link networks in a way that will enhance the knowledge transfer/exchange capacities of the majority world?

What is the role of language in global networking?

Links with whom? NGOs, universities, social movements, transnational networks