Social Justice Work

The Society for The Study of Social Problems
August 14, 2010
JoAnn Miller
Three Strands of Inquiry

- Critical Community Engagement Scholarship
- Activist & Advocacy Scholarship
- C. Wright Mills Award Winning Books

Social Justice Work
THE INNOCENCE PROJECT
Gebisa Ejeta
2009 World Food Prize Winner
Purpose-Driven Science
Protests and Demonstrations
Global Problems, the Problems of Globalization

Women and girls are most at risk of violence from men they know, particularly in the family.
Rape and sexual torture are used as weapons of war.
Violence against women has serious mental, physical and sexual health consequences.

Violence against women is a public health problem. It can be prevented.
A Research Team: A Study of Workers, Managers, and Families

and
Ted
Brimeyer
The Plant
Bring Your Children to Work Day: Blue Collar Style
Social Justice Work to Influence Law and Policy Makers
The Scholarship of Social Justice
Social Activists and Social Advocates: Social Justice Workers
Characteristics of Social Justice Work

- Purpose Driven
  - Use best theory
  - Use best methods
  - Interdisciplinary work

- Action Focused
  - Praxis
  - Local, state, national, or international

- Different types of scholarship matter
  - Rich, detailed, descriptive studies
  - Publication outlets
Publication Outlets
Community Engagement

The “Wisconsin Idea” 1904

University President Charles Van Hise
Critical Community Engagement Work
Critical Community Engagement Work

- Reflection
- Negotiation
- Observation
- Analysis
Jeralyn Long Faris
JoAnn Miller
The Hon. D. C. Johnson
Child Development & Family Studies
Bringing Expertise to Court
The Evidence = The Data

Does this community engagement program work?
Should we fund it again?

\[ CM = \frac{\text{(Sum of all observations)}^2}{ra} \]

\[ SS_{\text{total}} = \sum (\text{each observation})^2 - CM \]

\[ SS(A) = \frac{\sum A_i^2}{rb} - CM \]

\[ SS(B) = \frac{\sum B_j^2}{ra} - CM \]

\[ SS(AB) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{a} \sum_{j=1}^{b} (AB)^2_{ij}}{rb} - CM - SS(A) - SS(B) \]

\[ SSE = SS_{\text{total}} - SS(A) - SS(B) - SS(AB) \]

et cetera
Organizational Lessons from Community Engagement Work

- Blended social organizations
  - Missions and purpose

- Nonprofit bottom lines
  - New privatization

- Interpretation of conversations and observations
  - Information transformed by agency workers and their supervisors
Critical Community Engagement: a Type of Social Justice Work

- Purpose-driven and action-focused work
- Some topics for a *Social Problems Forum* column
  - Ethics
  - Picking battles
  - Scholarship & praxis
  - Avoiding cooptation
  - Stepping up to the microphone
  - Hiring and promotion and tenure criteria

[http://www.imaginingamerica.org/TTI/TTI_FINAL.pdf](http://www.imaginingamerica.org/TTI/TTI_FINAL.pdf)
Telling the Story, Getting Hired and Promoted
Examples of Purpose-Driven and Action-Focused Scholarship

C. Wright Mills Winners

*Made in China*, Pun Ngai

*Brewing Justice*, Daniel Jaffee

*In Search of Respect*, Phillippe Bourgois
C. Wright Mills Award Winning Books

- First award in 1964
- 54 award winners
  - Interdisciplinary perspectives
  - Purpose-driven and action-focused work
  - Synthetic or discipline-driven work
- Most research within the United States
- Poverty and inequalities; social class, work and organizations, and un/underemployment
- Ethnographies, in-depth interviews
Poverty & Inequalities
Unemployment, Work, Jobs
Libraries that Hold C. Wright Mills Award Winning Books

- 54 books
- Purdue’s WorldCat
  - COUNT the number of libraries that hold each award winner
  - WorldCat = union catalog; itemizes the collections of 71,000 libraries. It is the largest bibliographic database
- Each of the 54 books is held by a specific number of libraries
- Range = 236 – 2,668 libraries that hold an award winner
- Sum of WorldCat COUNTS of the 54 C. Wright Mills books = 61,151
61,151 Award Winning Books Held by Libraries

The earlier book awards

*Justice without Trial* (1966)
*Regulating the Poor* (1971)
*The Secret Trauma* (1986)
*The Truly Disadvantaged* (1986)

The more recent book awards

*Flat Broke with Children* (2003)
*Off the Books* (2006)
Variation in Library Holdings

☑ Year of publication

+ Purpose-driven and action-focused research
+ Study conducted in United States
- Study conducted outside United States
+ One particular university press
Social Justice Work & C. Wright Mills Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Justice Work</th>
<th>C. Wright Mills Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Activist Work</td>
<td>Purpose Driven and Action Focused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Advocacy Work</td>
<td>Ethnographies and Interview Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Critical Community Engagement Work</td>
<td>Synthetic and Discipline-Focused Theoretical or Methodological Scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>