Participatory Action Research: How and Why We Should Engage in Research-Activism in the 21st Century

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What if the academy developed a “REAL” intellectual and activist-based pipeline from the academy to the **COMMUNITY**, to offer everyday people, a “REAL” opportunity to participate in power?
Participatory Action Research (PAR) projects include on the research team, members of the population and/or community of interest. Once such members are identified, they then are offered the opportunity to participate in all phases of the research project (e.g. theoretical framing, literature review, analysis, publication, presentation, monetary compensation, etc.); &

PAR projects require an *social justice based response* to be organized in response to the data collected by the study.

**Research + Social Activism = PAR**
Informal Definition of PAR

- A. Community Uplift
- B. Agency
- C. Liberation
- D. Social Justice
- E. Social Change
- F. Social Activism
- G. Empowerment
Formal PAR Approaches

- (1) Liberation Theology;
- (2) Liberation Psychology;
- (3) Action Research;
- (4) Participatory Action Research;
- (5) Participatory Research;
- (6) Community Based Participatory Research;
- (7) Community Partnership Research;
- (8) Neo-PAR;
Formal PAR Approaches

- Cont’D...
- (9) Youth PAR;
- (10) Street PAR;
- (11) Participatory Rural Appraisal;
- (12) Rapid Assessment Procedures;
- (13) Participatory Geography;
- (14) Participatory Democracy;
- (15) Participatory Art; and
- (16) Street Outreach campaigns
What is Street PAR?

... a type of PAR model that organizes street identified persons and/or those formerly involved with the criminal justice system to document the lived experiences of other street identified populations.
What is Ecology?

The complex physiological and psycho-social relationship the world has with itself.
Texas beaches and dunes

Texas General Land Office • Jerry Patterson, Commissioner
What is Ecology?
What is Ecology?
Sites of Resilience Theoretical Model
Culture – The socializing and dominant group of an individual. This represents a value or belief system that is usually grounded in race and ethnicity.

Agency – This represents the individual and the individual’s will within culture and structure.

Structure – This represents the institutional (i.e. schools, prisons, etc.) and structural (i.e. economic or educational system, etc.) forces that shape agency and culture.
(A) An *Ethnography* is an examination of a localized population. An ethnography is primarily a methodological approach implemented to more deeply understand the worldview and overall lived experiences of a particular population.

(B) *Street Ethnography* is an examination of street identified populations;
Kurt Lewin (1946)
“Action Research in Minority Conflicts”
Journal of Social Issues
Kurt Lewin (1946)

... action-research... research which will help the practitioner... there exists a great amount of good-will, of readiness to face the problem squarely and really to do something about it. If this amount of serious good-will could be transformed into organized, efficient action, there would be no danger for intergroup relations in the United States. But exactly here lies the difficulty. These eager people feel to be in the fog. They feel in the fog on three counts: (1) What is the present situation?; (2) What are the dangers?; (3) And most important of all, what shall we do? (34).
(1) Kurt Lewin (1946). *Action Research in Minority Conflicts*

(2) **Momentous Period:** 1950’s – 1960’s

(3) Han Toch (1967): “*The Convict as a Researcher*”

(4) **Slowing/Cooling Down Period:** 1970’s

(5) **Reemergence:** 1990’s
Cuban Literacy Brigade (1961)
Cuban Literacy Brigade (1961)
Cuban Literacy Brigade (1961)
Colonization is not satisfied merely with holding a people in its grip and emptying the natives brain of all form and content. By a kind of perverted logic, it turns to the past of the oppressed people, and distorts, disfigures and destroys it!”
Orlando Fals-Borda (1991)

ACTION and KNOWLEDGE
BREAKING THE MONOPOLY
WITH PARTICIPATORY ACTION-RESEARCH

ORLANDO FALS-BORDA
MOHAMMAD ANISUR RAHMAN
Paulo Freire (1968)
Ignacio Martín Baró

1942 - 1989

Automático o a su gusto con el mouse
Huey P. Newton
The Black Panthers
The Young Lords Party
The Brown Beret
Mullings & Wali (2000)

*Stress and Resilience:*

*The Social Context of Reproduction in Central Harlem*

(1) Consumer Advisory Board (24 members)

(2) Community Dialogue Group (5-10 Harlem residents)
Mullings & Wali (2000)

Stress and Resilience: The Social Context of Reproduction in Central Harlem

(1) Field Research (participant and field observations);

(2) Questionnaires; and

(3) Focus Groups
The L. I. F. E. R. S.

- Long
- Incarcerated
- Fraternity
- Engaging
- Release
- Studies
“... it is unrealistic to think that any serious efforts to address the problem of drug addiction could be successful while simultaneously excluding drug users, who consume illegal substances and drug dealers, who market them, from such efforts. It is logically inconsistent, therefore, to expect a reduction in crime simply by galvanizing law enforcement, legislators, and a few select community groups, while excluding those deemed to be criminal elements from the process.

The multidirectional approach is one where the issue of crime is approached from all segments of society who are empowered to invest in such efforts for the mutual benefit of all. Therefore, the members of Long Incarcerated Fraternity Engaging Release Studies (L. I. F. E. R. S., Inc.) have adopted the mission of ending what we have identified as the culture of street crime, by starting with ourselves, within the institution, and expanding out into the community” (51).
Twenty-Four Member PAR Team of NYC Youth

(A) **Training:** Six- 4 to 6 hour workshops;

(B) **Data Collection:** 911 surveys stratified by race, gender and region; and

(C) **Data Collection:** 36 In-Depth Follow-Up Telephone Interviews
“Anything Can Happen with Police Around”: Urban Youth Evaluate Strategies of Surveillance in Public Places

“...that urban youth, overall express a strong sense of betrayal by adults and report feeling mistrusted by adults, with young men of color most likely to report these perceptions” (142).
The Public Science Project
9 Dimensions of PAR

**Project Organization**
1. Project Identity
2. Ethics
3. Resources and Incentives
4. Timeline
5. Methodological Design

**Community & Advocacy**
6. Local History
7. Audience
8. The PEOPLE
9. Action Plan
Specific Research Methods

Quantitative Methods
- Surveys
- Experiments
- Quasi-Experiments

Qualitative Methods
- Individual Interview
- Focus Group
- Group Interview
- Telephone
Specific Research Methods

Arts & Humanities

(1) Spoken Word
(2) Fictional Writing
(3) Performance (i.e., song, acting, etc.)
(4) Film
(5) Photography
(6) Collaging
(7) Traditional Paintings
Research Methods Training

I. Two Month Period;

II. Eighteen Research Method Workshops;

III. Three to Four times per week for three to five hours per workshop;

IV. Research Theory, Methodology, Data Analysis, and Social Activism.
Theoretical Framework

(1) Sites of Resilience (Payne, 2011); &

(2) Structural Violence Theory (Galtung, 1969)
Structural Violence Theory
(Galtung, 1969)

How structural institutions or systems actively prevent individuals, groups and/or communities from meeting their basic needs through policies, laws and other forms of regulations.
“Street life” or a “street” identity is *phenomenological* language used to describe an ideology centered on personal, social and economic survival.

Crime as Resilience

The way street identified persons or groups organize meaning around feeling well, satisfied, or accomplished, and how they choose to survive in relation to adverse structural conditions.

Sites of Resilience Theoretical Model
Research Questions

(1) To what extent is economic well-being predictive of experiences of physical violence in a community sample of street life oriented Black youth and young adults (18-35) in Wilmington, Delaware?; and

(2) To what extent is this relationship between economic well-being and physical violence mediated by psychological and social well-being?
Collecting surveys in the Eastside
Hope where others see none

Project goes straight to the people to cut crime, poverty

BY IRA PORTER - THE NEWS JOURNAL - NOVEMBER 21, 2010

Twan Washington sat on a stoop near the corner of 10th and Spruce streets in the city's East Side neighborhood, staring at the pavement.

A thin cigar slowly burned between his thumb and index finger as he explained how his life had reached this crisis point.

At 17, Washington says he has been smoking marijuana and drinking since he was about 12. "Just like my uncles." He robs people to support his habits, he said, and spends most of his day just hanging out.

"That's what I grew up around."

He dropped out of Dickinson High School last year in 11th grade. He has no job. He has no prospects. He knows people who have been shot, some killed. A few others spent time in prison. The rest spend their days like him.
News Journal Coverage

Ex-hustler turns his life around
Family helps end drug dealing, cycle of crime

1:17 AM, Nov. 24, 2010 | 68 Comments
# Survey Sample

\[ N = 520 \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Cohort</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 - 21</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 – 29</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 35</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Range</td>
<td>Individual Interviews</td>
<td>Dual Interviews</td>
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<td>-----------</td>
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<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 - 33</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 (4 participants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 - 40</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 (2 participants)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highest Educational Level Completed

- Post-college: 0.2%
- College diploma: 0.8%
- Some college: 5.2%
- Diploma: 50.1%
- Less than diploma: 41.4%
- Less than high school: 2.4%

N = 503
Unemployment by Gender

- Male: 68%
- Female: 62%
Living Conditions – Negative Experience

- Rennie Rox (35): I mean, wasn't nothin', wasn't nothin' new (in the home). You know... you talkin' about books holdin' up couches... you might not have a bed frame. Your mattress and your box spring's on the floor. The typical poverty Wilmington situation. But I never take nothin' away from my mother... she tried everything she could to make sure that we had a hot meal every night, even if it was just... breakfast food... We're... gonna make some French toast or somethin' tonight (laughter)... I love my mom to death. She's... the inspiration for me...
Exposure to Physical Violence....
“Have you ever had a relative killed with a gun?”

- 54.6% said Yes
- 45.4% said No

No age group differences
No gender differences
No age/gender interactions
"Have you ever had a friend killed with a gun?"

N = 495

- Yes: 59.2%
- No: 40.8%
Personal Experiences with Physical Violence......
"How many times have you been chased by gangs or individuals?"

- 79.4% Never
- 9.2% More than 12 times
- 8.8% 5 to 8 times
- 2.3% 1 to 4 times
- 0.4% 9 to 12 times

N = 514
"How many times have you been attacked or stabbed with a knife?"

- Never: 74.8%
- 1 to 4 times: 13.4%
- 5 to 8 times: 8.2%
- 9 to 12 times: 2.7%
- More than 12 times: 1.0%

\[ N = 516 \]
"How many times have you been shot with a gun?"

- Never: 80.2%
- 1 to 4 times: 9.7%
- 5 to 8 times: 6.4%
- 9 to 12 times: 1.7%
- More than 12 times: 1.9%
Psychological Well-being...
"How satisfied are you with your life?"

- Very satisfied: 36.9%
- Somewhat satisfied: 45.6%
- Not very satisfied: 14.4%
- Not satisfied at all: 3.5%

N = 520
"How happy would you say you are these days?"

- Very happy: 34.7%
- Somewhat happy: 50.3%
- Not very happy: 12.7%
- Not happy at all: 2.3%

N = 519
"I am a useful person to have around"

- Almost always true: 61.0%
- Often true: 33.2%
- Not often true: 2.9%
- Not ever true: 2.9%
Social Well-being...
N = 519

"I feel a responsibility to make my community better"

- Strongly disagree: 7.7%
- Disagree: 16.0%
- Agree: 54.3%
- Strongly agree: 22.0%

No gender differences
Community-Based Street Love

**Banks (27):** I know quite a few guys.. from my side of town that gave back: 4th of July, fireworks, barbeque, DJs, um, down at the park—big barbeques! ...even if you want to say with the drug aspect, (guys in the street) made sure their hood’ was okay (or provided for)... you have some guys (in the street) that... (actually) give back to the community in a good way, even though they.. doing what they do... (or engaged in criminal activity).
Employment Outcomes

All Street PAR family members received some form of quality employment during and/or after the project’s initial funding period.

Quality employment opportunities were provided by:

1. University of Delaware;
2. United Way of Delaware;
3. Christina Cultural Art Center;
4. Delaware Center for Justice
5. Christiana Care Hospital
6. Parkway Academy School District; and

12 Street PAR family members are presently employed
Street PAR “Family” Member Outcomes

- **Education Outcomes**

- 6 Street PAR family members enrolled in college
  - (a) Graduate school – 3 family members;
  - (b) Undergraduate school – 4 family members;
  - (c) Offered but declined educational opportunity – 2 family members.
Activism/Action Outcomes

100 - Formal presentations since November 2009

- (a) 40 college/university presentations;
- (b) 39 community presentations; &
  16 - civic, political and banking leadership;
  23 - local community residents
- (c) 21 media presentations
Thursday, February 28, 2013
7:00-9:00pm
University of Delaware
Trabant MultiPurpose Room

Join us for a 45-minute screening of The People’s Report, a documentary on the violence in Wilmington, Delaware, a city labeled the “most dangerous” city in the country. This film highlights Dr. Yasser Payne’s and the Wilmington Street Participatory Action Research (P.A.R.) team’s study on physical violence and structural inequalities in Wilmington, Delaware. A panel discussion with P.A.R. members will follow the viewing of the documentary. This discussion will explore solutions and interruptions to violence in inner city communities.

Light hors d’oeuvres will be provided. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information or special accommodations, please contact 302-831-2897.
Co-sponsors: Black Student Union, Center for Black Culture, Department of Sociology and Criminology, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, College of Education and Human Development and Center for the Study of Diversity.
People’s Report Début Film Viewing
People’s Report Début Film Viewing
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE'S DEPT. OF BLACK AMERICAN STUDIES
IN COLLABORATION WITH CHRISTINA CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
THE CREATIVE VISION FACTORY + DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
CONTEMPORARY ARTS + BARRY'S EVENTS

PRESENTS

WILMINGTON TRAP STARS
A STREET ART EXHIBITION

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY
AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

EXHIBIT OPENS
MARCH 22 TO JUNE 15TH 2014 AT
"THE DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS
IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE"
(205 S MADISON ST, WILMINGTON, DE 19801)

CONTACT MICHAEL KALMBACH OR YASSEF PAYNE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
APRIL 4 & 5 LAUNCH EVENT!

LIVE ART PERFORMANCES!
Join us in a celebration of street art and
local artists in conjunction with the exhibition.
"Wilmington Trap Stars: A Street Art Exhibition."
The day will include music, dance,
mural painting, & family activities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
REFRESH ART LOOP
Extended Hours

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Events will be held at
Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts
200 South Madison St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-656-6466

thedadca/streetARTfest

THE CREATIVE VISION FACTORY
BARRY'S EVENTS
BARBEque

THE CREATIVE VISION FACTORY
BARRY'S EVENTS
BARBEque
Wilmington Trap Stars Street Art Exhibition
Before I die...

Before I die I want to:
- fly First Class to Ireland
- leave an impact
- create 🌟 sing on Broadway
- be on the Daily Show
- make my own honey
- jump in a puddle
- ride a elephant, then an octopus
- adopt a puppy

Before I die I want to:
- save a life
- get a tattoo
- learn to play the piano
- volunteer at the animal shelter
- buy a house
- be a parent

#WFSBeforeIDie
Wilmington Trap Stars Street Art Exhibition

LIVE ART PERFORMANCES!

Join us in a celebration of street art and local artists in conjunction with the exhibition, "Wilmington Trap Stars: A Street Art Exhibition." The 2-day celebration will include music, dance, mural painting & family activities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
5p--11p Extended Hours
REEF:ASH ART LOOP
12p--4p Extended Hours

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
5p--11p
REEF:ASH ART LOOP
12p--4p
Governor Markell & Mayor Williams Visit the Community
Governor Markell and Mayor Williams Visit the Community
Kenyatta Brooks
Street PAR Family Member
William Grimes shows gunshot wounds he received back in Sept. 4th of 2009 when he was robbed in the streets just a block away on the East Side.
Mikesha Washington shows several stab wounds on her back that she got in Wilmington.
Jonathon Wilson

- Completed a Masters of Arts in Human Social Services at Wilmington University
- Enrolled in Ed.D Program at Wilmington University
- “Runn Way Unisex Hair Salon”
- Executive Director, The Farthership Foundation
Ashley Randolph

(1) United Way of Delaware – Community Impact Technical Associate;

(2) Junior Network Engineer at Barclay’s Bank

(3) Enrolled at Wilmington University; &

(4) Radio Personality - WVUD (91.3 FM): “Uncle Richards ‘Neighborhoods”
Patrice F. Gibbs

Organized Unity

Uncle Richard
Wilmington hopes program can ‘interrupt’ crime

Yann Ranavo, The News Journal  6:42 p.m. EDT March 15, 2014

Wilmington leaders are confident that reasoning with and providing guidance to troubled men and women will play a key role in fighting violent crime.

Shawn Allen, deputy director of the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation, will be in Chicago on Wednesday and Thursday to receive some training on the Cure Violence Learning Exchange program.

The city has plans to start an initiative modeled after Cure Violence, which uses trained “interrupters” to reach out to potential offenders to try to deter them from a criminal life.

While a big proponent of using law enforcement to fight crime, Wilmington Mayor Dennis P. Williams said police alone can’t address the root cause of many crimes.

“We’ve looked at this a while,” Williams said. “You can’t arrest your way out of this. Arresting, arresting is just putting out a fire. It’s never going to stop.”

The young adults the program will reach out to will include those with past criminal charges, some who associate with the wrong crowd and some who have struggled with drug abuse, Allen said.
Darryl Chambers

- Completed Master of Arts degree in the Criminology Department at the University of Delaware
- Enrolled as Doctoral Student in the Criminology Department at the University of Delaware
- Hired on 4 other UD professor’s research projects
Delaware will pay up to $200,000 for two consulting firms to study gun violence in Delaware's largest city and help recommend new policing strategies to reduce shootings.

The firms will work with the newly created Wilmington Public Safety Strategies Commission, a panel created last month by the Legislature and controlled by Gov. Jack Markell.

Delaware is finalizing a contract with the New York consultancy Vigilant Resources International, led by former New York City Police Commissioner Howard Safir, to help the new commission develop recommendations to reduce crime in the city.

The state is also contracting with the nonprofit Police Foundation to help consider new policing strategies in Wilmington. The foundation's work will be led by James Burch, a former high-ranking official at the U.S. Department of Justice who previously worked as assistant director of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Gun violence has only increased in the New Year, with police reporting 19 shootings, the latest one Wednesday night, in the first four weeks of 2015, including seven killings.
William E. Vrooman
Social Justice Award (April 2015)
William E. Vrooman
Social Justice Award (April 2015)
Delaware Center for Justice
Wilmington, Delaware is one of the most violent cities, per capita, in the nation. In 2010 a group of researchers, recruited from the streets of the city, sought to find out why. The People's Report is an ethnographic community needs assessment of two of Wilmington’s oldest and most violent neighborhoods: Eastside and Southbridge. The study organized fifteen community residents from these neighborhoods who have experience in the streets and/or criminal justice system as participatory action researchers (PAR), to empirically document the impact of community violence.
Recommendations

- 17 Total Recommendations

**Target Areas:**

- (1) Physical Violence;
- (2) Structural Opportunity;
- (3) Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice System; &
- (4) Street Outreach and Continued Community-Centered Research and Activism
We call for interventions to be situated within the context of personal and communal empowerment. However, a context must be provided so that empowerment is actually possible.
Aspirations of *The Streets*

(1) want to work or be employed;

(2) want to go to school including college; and

(3) want to give back to their local neighborhoods
THANK YOU!!!!!!

Yasser Arafat Payne, Ph.D.

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(302) 831-4383

Social Media

https://www.facebook.com/PeoplesReport
https://twitter.com/peoplesreport
https://www.youtube.com/user/thepeoplesreport