
**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT,
PUBLIC WORK AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

Purpose:

To assess the effects of civic engagement and public work on the psychosocial well-being of college students. Participants will exchange information and ideas; build a national learning community; and contribute to a field of practice and subject of study.

**This symposium is convened by the
Bringing Theory to Practice Project,
sponsored by the Charles Engelhard Foundation,
Christian A. Johnson Endeavour Foundation, and S. Engelhard Center,
in partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities**

November 2009

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AGENDA

**Day One
Thursday
November 5**

10:00 Registration and hospitality

10:15 Welcome to the symposium

Donald Harward
Bringing Theory to Practice

10:30-
12:00 Opening plenary session

Introductions and symposium goals

Barry Checkoway
University of Michigan

This session will introduce the purpose, rationale, and process of the symposium, research and practice perspectives, and guiding questions to be addressed.

Civic engagement, public work, and psychosocial well-being

What is meant by “civic engagement,” “public work,” and “psychosocial well-being”? What is their relationship?

Do civic engagement and public work have effects and affects on the psychosocial well-being of college students and, if so, what are they?

What knowledge is available about this relationship, and what might be learned from it?

Connie Flanagan
Pennsylvania State University

Jim Youniss
Catholic University

Panel responses

Each panelist will respond and provide additional comments, followed by comments and questions from the audience.

David Scobey
Bates College

Joyce Bylander
Dickinson College

12:30-
1:45

Lunch

Student-faculty lunch panel

Panelists will share their experiences with civic engagement and psychosocial well-being through campus-community dialogues on diversity and discrimination.

Moderator: Barry Checkoway

Sarah Yu
University of Chicago

Ellie Gunderson
Georgetown University

Patricia Gurin
University of Michigan

2:00-
3:00

Civic engagement research session

We will provide perspectives on and pose questions about the past, present, and future of civic engagement as a subject of study.

Moderator: Donald Harward
Bringing Theory to Practice

Presenter: Peter Levine
Tufts University

Small group table discussions

Checking in

3:00

Refreshments

3:15-
4:15

Social justice perspectives

What happens when civic engagement, public work, and psychosocial well-being are viewed through a social justice or diversity learning lens?

Moderator: Caryn McTighe Musil
Association of American Colleges & Universities

Presenter: Shawn Ginwright
San Francisco State University

Small group table discussions

Checking in

5:00

Social reception

5:30

Dinner

7:00

Institutional change in higher education

What issues arise when educational institutions take seriously the relationship among civic engagement, public work, and psychosocial wellbeing? What are the factors that limit and facilitate such efforts? What can be learned from experience?

Moderator: Caryn McTighe Musil
Association of American Colleges & Universities

Presenter: Richard Guarasci
Wagner College

Rob Hollister
Tufts University

General discussion

8:00

Adjourn

**Day Two
Friday
November 6**

8:00 Breakfast available

8:15 Open and preview of day

Barry Checkoway

8:30-
9:30 Concurrent working groups I

What information did you bring to share, whether an example, case study, or empirical evidence from qualitative or quantitative observation or research? How did you gather your information? What were your findings, and what can be learned from them?

Are there general propositions on which there is relative agreement? Are there unanswered questions or unresolved issues which remain for future work?

Concurrent working groups will address guiding questions, with a facilitator and a scribe to capture the discussion.

Working group 1: Kathy Low
Bates College

Working group 2: Bernie Arons
Saint Elizabeth's Hospital

Working group 3: Thia Wolf
California State University, Chico

Working group 4: Terri Kapsalis
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

9:30 Checking in

9:45 Break

10:00 Concurrent working groups II (cont.)

This session will continue the discussion, with similar format.

11:00 Working group reports

Moderators:

Barry Checkoway

Connie Flanagan

Jim Youniss

12:00 Luncheon buffet

1:15 Evaluation tools

What issues arise in evaluation of civic engagement, public work, and psychosocial wellbeing? Are there instruments for assessing the relationship? What would a more comprehensive instrument be?

Moderator: Ashley Finley
Association of American Colleges & Universities

Evaluator: Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg
Tufts University

Evaluator: Jay Brandenberger
University of Notre Dame

General discussion

2:15 Looking ahead

If we wanted to strengthen this work as a field of practice or subject of study, what would it be?

This session will include information on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects which complement the symposium objectives.

Barry Checkoway and Don Harward

3:00 Adjourn