

YOUR FRAMEWORK FOR YOUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT(CD) PRACTICE

SRRG Possibility Lab, 22 Feb 2022



WHAT IS CD WORK FOR YOU?

"Every community worker will conceptualise practice in a different way, and will build a different practice framework that will develop and change with experience." (Ife and Tesoriero, 2006, p. 321)

WHAT DO CD WORKERS DO ?

"The set of skills and knowledge commonly associated with community development, usually portrays a set of social practices through which workers assist, enable, and facilitate groups of people or community members to build relationships, develop analyses and work together to address issues impacting on their lives."(Westoby and Ingamells, 2012, p384)



DILEMMAS IN CD PRACTICE

"...research with Australian community workers that external forces such as organisational and funding body requirements and community mandates had more influence on practice than workers' frameworks."

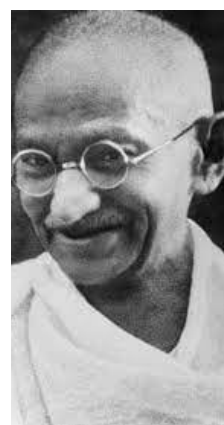
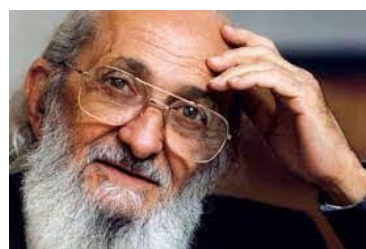
"New public management has instituted a drive for quick measurable outputs from short-term projects within an audit and performative culture. These shifts do not support the long-term development goals of communities and give rise to many practitioner dilemmas." (Westoby and Ingamells, 2012 p386-7).

These pressures are even more exacerbated after a disaster for both communities and workers (Shevellar, 2015).



DEVELOPING YOUR OWN CD PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

"Seven steps you can use to develop your own framework include: naming; collecting data (fragments, experiences, anecdotes, insights); transforming data into dimensions; shaping; finding a symbol; trialing; and, critiquing." This takes time, conversation... and "processes might include reflections on practice, journaling, reading author-activists, reviewing theory and research, and talking with others." (Westoby and Ingamells, 2012, p386).



MAIN SOURCE: PETER WESTOBY & ANN INGAMELLS (2012) TEACHING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PERSONAL PRACTICE FRAMEWORKS, SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION, 31:3, 383-396, DOI:10.1080/02615479.2010.550913

THE HOW AND WHY OF REFLECTING ON YOUR PRACTICE

SRRG Possibility Lab, 2 Feb 2022



REFLECTING ON YOUR PRACTICE TO CREATE YOUR FRAMEWORK

"... that first stage was starting to get a feel for what I was already doing and where my value-base was."

"I just remember thinking "what is the core of what I'm doing?". "

"I remember spreading out butcher's paper on the floor at home and trying to look at my practice, what do I do, and why do I do it. " (Westoby and Ingamells, 2012, p390)

WHAT IMAGES MIGHT SPEAK MEANINGFULLY TO YOU ABOUT THE WORK YOU DO?

Is there something that speaks to you, your life experience and what your hopes are in the work you do with communities? CD workers speak about:

- A weaving (p391)
- A hospitality framework (p391)
- Beekeeper - bee colony
- A forest or the bush ecosystem



<https://www.wilddecology.org/2018/10/10/treetalk/>

BENEFITS OF REFLECTING ON YOUR PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

- "It's an opportunity to re-interpret, deconstruct and shift your relationship to practice."
- Can enhance your "capacity to see the strategies and pathways that enable a community development approach".
- "Creating space for the personal is sustaining and can provide the 'fire in the belly' or 'commitment of the heart' or simply 'greater personal confidence' to withstand pressures to conform to a status quo or power relations that do not serve the communities people work with" (Westoby and Ingamells, 2012, p392).



Photo by Kate Kalvach on Unsplash

INTEGRATING WHO YOU ARE WITH WHAT YOU DO

"The insistent technical and managerial emphases of contemporary work contexts make it necessary to validate holding together heart, spirituality and relationship with a life-world emphasis." (Westoby and Ingamells, 2012, p393).

Authentic intentional practice is integral to both authoring the way you do your work and building trusted relationships with both community and other agencies who are also engaged in similar missions and to work collaboratively for the benefit of communities.



Credit: Dimitri Otis Getty Images, Source: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-timeless-journey-of-the-moebius-strip/>

SOURCE OF MOST QUOTES: PETER WESTOBY & ANN INGAMELLS (2012) TEACHING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PERSONAL PRACTICE FRAMEWORKS, SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION, 31:3, 383-396, DOI:10.1080/02615479.2010.550913

POSTER CREATED BY LOUISE MITCHELL, SOCIAL RECOVERY REFERENCE GROUP AUSTRALIA, FOR THE POSSIBILITY LAB COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE, 2022.