Seminar Description

This seminar examines research on community participation as a process of involving people in the institutions and decisions that affect their lives.

The seminar analyzes various frameworks for understanding participation as a field of practice and subject of study; key concepts such as social capital, civil society, and capacity-building; and several strategies in terms of their empowering effects on individuals, organizations, and communities. Strategies may include grassroots organizing, municipal planning, neighborhood development, assets-based assessment, intercultural and intergenerational involvement, telecommunications participation, schools for change, youth participation, and civic engagement in diverse democracy. Seminar content will feature action research and empowerment evaluation as special forms of participation.

Course readings will draw upon psychology, sociology, political science, education, environment, social work, urban planning, and public health, including empirically-based studies of communities arising in socially disadvantaged and economically disinvested areas.

Seminar Objectives

Understand community participation as a field of practice and subject of study;

Analyze major models and methods of participation practice;

Assess alternative approaches to research as a form of participation;

Develop in-depth knowledge of a specific effort at participation;

Prepare participants for research and teaching careers that involve and develop communities; and
Identify problems and issues of community participation in socially disadvantaged and economically disinvested areas.

**Seminar Design**

Responsibilities will include readings, participation in discussions, written assignments, and other learning activities related to course objectives. Resource persons may be invited to address special topics.

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**SW 654**  
Research Seminar on  
Community Participation  
Barry Checkoway  
Fall 2002

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**Course Schedule**

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Reading List

Core Concepts


Mass Mobilization


**Municipal Participation**


**Neighborhood Development**


**Participatory Assessment**

Meetings and Committees


Participation with Special Populations


Intercultural Participation

Civic Engagement


Participatory Research


Education for Democracy


**Civic Renewal of Research Universities**

