

SCRA Community Psychology Practice Council

Community Psychology Practitioner Profiles Project

[Dave Roitman, Ph.D.]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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| Job Title | Principal Consultant |
| Workplace | Industrial Technology Institute, Ann Arbor. Current: RWD Technologies |
| Location | Granby, Massachusetts |
| Email Address | droitman@rwd.com |
| Website | |
| Professional Affiliations | |

Please describe the work you do, for pay, as a community psychologist, including the setting(s) where you work?

I have been an organizational change management consultant for 26 years. I have had over 40 clients across 14 industries. I help people working in companies deal with change, usually related to technological innovation. My current focus is bridging the gap between strategy and execution.

What training/education do you have in community psychology?

Graduated in 1984 from Michigan State University with PhD in Psychology - was in MSU's Ecological Psychology program from 1977-1984.

Please describe how your training/education contributed to your work as a community psychologist. What do you view as the most important skills you learned in your training as a community psychologist.

1. Understanding systems relationships among individuals, groups, organizations, and their settings.
2. Ability to apply theories from a large variety of orientations and disciplines (e.g. social psyc, behavioral psyc, anthropology, political science, etc.) as they are useful to solve problems.
3. Understanding and maintaining my own values in the work I do, including, "be helpful, and do no harm."
4. Listening to understand.
5. Synthesizing vast amounts of information to the essential elements.

What other experiences or training have contributed to or enhanced your ability to work as a community psychologist?

1. Farm commune crew chief
2. Construction crew chief
3. Jazz drummer

All enabled me to hone facilitation and leadership skills

Are there other ways you use your community psychology background and training, either unpaid or in paid roles other than your primary work?

No

What advice might you give to students or people considering community psychology as a career?

Do it if you feel called. Follow your heart and soul, not just your brain. And don't worry, if it doesn't work out you'll find the next right thing to do. Also, keep smiling, life's too short not to. Finally and most important, it's not about you, it's about your clients and how can you help them.

Is there anything else you would like to say about your role as a community psychology practitioner?

People in workplace "communities" need the kind of help community psychologists provide, just like any other "community." And when you're working, it pays well.