

**21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL**  
**MIDWEST ECO CONFERENCE**  
**THE VALUE AND VALUES OF COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY**



Hosted by Michigan State University  
October 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Battle Creek, MI: Kendal Center

*Conference Program*

## General Conference Information

### Assistance with Conference Needs

Members of the Michigan State University planning committee will be wearing a "Host" nametag during the conference. Please feel free to stop any of these individuals if you need information or assistance of any kind.

### Meals and Banquet

All meals will be served in room 300. There will be light hors d'oeuvre served during the Friday night reception, a light breakfast Saturday morning, and a sandwich lunch buffet on Saturday afternoon.

### Reception and Mixer

Our kick-off reception will be held in room 300 on Friday night from 5:00 to 6:30pm with registration starting at 4:00pm. Following the reception, there will be an evening outing at the Ball Joint restaurant in Battle Creek (4720 Beckley Road).

### Poster Sessions

The poster session will be held in room 300 during the Friday night reception. Posters will be kept up for display throughout the day on Saturday.

### Concurrent Sessions

All concurrent sessions will be held in the Kendall Center; see map for specific room locations.

### Transportation

There is an Amtrak station located in Battle Creek with connections to Chicago, Detroit, and other nearby cities. More information can be found at: <http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=Amtrak/HomePage>.

### Hotel

Reservations can be made at AmeriHost Inn & Suites (182 W. Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI 49107, Phone: 269-565-0500) for a conference rate of \$69 (plus applicable taxes) per night. When calling the hotel, please inform the reservation staff that you are making a reservation for the "Midwest ECO Conference". This rate is valid until September 25<sup>th</sup> - after the 25<sup>th</sup> the rate goes up to \$79 plus taxes. Rooms are available for the nights of October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The hotel is approximately ½ mile from the Kendall Center. See link for more details: [http://www.amerihostinn.com/AmerihostInn/control/Booking/check\\_avail?areaCode=&brandCode=MQ,DI,HJ,KG,RA,SE,TL,BU&searchWithinMiles=25&areaType=1&destination=Battle%20Creek&state=MI&country=US&checkInDate=09/12&numberAdults=1&numberRooms=1&checkOutDate=09/13&numberChildren=0&numberBigChildren=0&rate=000&variant=&id=70149&propBrandId=MQ&force\\_nostay=false](http://www.amerihostinn.com/AmerihostInn/control/Booking/check_avail?areaCode=&brandCode=MQ,DI,HJ,KG,RA,SE,TL,BU&searchWithinMiles=25&areaType=1&destination=Battle%20Creek&state=MI&country=US&checkInDate=09/12&numberAdults=1&numberRooms=1&checkOutDate=09/13&numberChildren=0&numberBigChildren=0&rate=000&variant=&id=70149&propBrandId=MQ&force_nostay=false)

### Parking

There is free parking available for guests staying at the AmeriHost Inn & Suites. The Hotel is located ½ mile from the Kendall Center. There is also free daytime parking available downtown Battle Creek near the Kendall Center.

### Topic Lunch

During the Saturday lunch hour, there will be an opportunity for attendees to participate in several informal discussions organized around particular themes. Attendees will have an opportunity to suggest themes by filling out topic cards at registration.

### Conference Evaluation

Conference evaluation forms are included with your registration packet. Please complete and return the evaluations to designated boxes located at the registration and information tables before you leave the conference.

**Conference Schedule**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Midwest Eco Conference**  
**The Value and Values of Community Psychology**  
**Battle Creek, MI; October 10-11, 2008**

**Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 4:00 – 5:00pm**                      **Registration**
- 5:00 – 6:30pm**                      **Opening Reception and Poster Session**
- 7:00pm**                                      **Evening Outing at the Ball Joint Restaurant**  
 4720 Beckley Road, Battle Creek

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:30 – 9:30am**                      **Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:30 – 10:30am**                      **Concurrent Sessions**

<b>Room</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Format</b>
303	1	Homelessness Across Perspectives	Valerie Anderson Jordan Braciszewski Benjamin Hidalgo Patrick Janulis Brian P. Bell Steven R. Howe Katherine Baum Yvonne Roberts	Symposia
203	2	Start Consulting: How to bring the value and values of Community Psychology to the real world?	Judah Viola Susan McMahon Bradley Olson	Symposia
310	3	Understanding social change within legal education: Strengths and challenges to promoting student mental health	Andrea Flynn Jayme Taylor Bernadette Sanchez	Individual Presentation
311	4	Exploration of a Psychological Sense of Community Among Torture Survivors	Nancy Bothne Ana Martinez Margaret Miller Kirsten Dickins Eucarol Juarez Carly Kaplan	Round Table
312	5	The International Community Psychology Scene: Looking at Ways to Connect Across Borders	Sarah Beehler Nicholas Kaufmann Myra Margolin	Round Table

**10:40 – 11:40am Concurrent Sessions**

<b>Room</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Format</b>
303	6	Homelessness Across Perspectives	Valerie Anderson Jordan Braciszewski Benjamin Hidalgo Patrick Janulis Brian P. Bell Steven R. Howe Katherine Baum Yvonne Roberts	Symposia
311	7	<u>Presentations on Power and Empowerment</u>  Contemporary Sociological Theories and Community Psychology: Bringing Back Power and Structure into the Inequation  Processes of Empowerment and Conscientization: incursions on the existence of Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, challenges for Community Psychology  From empowerment to powerlessness: Challenges facing an empowerment orientation	Urmitapa Dutta  Mara Bicas José H. Ornelas Isabel Menezes  Erin Droege Pennie Foster-Fishman	Related Presentations
310	8	Using Community Psychology Principles to Critique Research	Allison Dymnicki Sarah Beehler Wing Yi Chan	Individual Presentation
203	9	Ex- Offenders, Substance Abusers, Mentally Ill: Alternatives to Total Institutions	Leonard Jason Brad Olson John Majer Ron Harvey Joseph Ferrari Darrin Aase Stephanie Marez Phyllis Timpo LaTasha Washington Courtney Harris Anna Marshall Bronwyn Hunter Lisa Walt G. Anne Bogat Jody Backrach Dave Muller	Round Table
312	10	Empowerment, Diversity, and Schools: The Cutting Edge of Community Psychology	Chris Keys Susan McMahon Michele Morgan Adia Gooden Dina Birman	Round Table

**11:50 – 12:50pm Keynote Panel**

## Living Out the Values of Community Psychology in the Real World

Branda Nowell - North Carolina State University  
 Pennie Foster-Fishman - Michigan State University  
 Edison Trickett - University of Illinois at Chicago  
 Nicole Porter - Center for Community Research

**12:50 – 1:40pm Lunch and Topic Discussions****1:40 – 2:40pm Concurrent Sessions**

Room	ID	Title	Presenters	Format
303	11	An Ecosocial Model of Psychological Distress Among African American Women: Implications for Community Research and Action	Jane K. Burke-Miller	Individual Presentation
203	12	Training Community Psychologists in Public Policy	Aaron Boulton Nicole Porter Leonard Jason Christopher Keys Brad Olson Steve Howe Penny Foster-Fishman Erin Droege Benjamin Graham Nikki Roesner Joshua Herrington	Round Table
310	13	Challenges and Strategies When Working Community Based Organizations: Perspectives Across Community Contexts	Benjamin Hidalgo Robert Gutierrez Maria Valenti	Round Table
311	14	<u>Presentations on PAR</u>  Is there value in using participatory action research with criminal offenders?  Participatory Action Research with Youth	Lauren Marlotte  Kristen Law	Related Presentations
312	15	Community Psychology Values: Beyond the Textbook	Olya Belyaev-Glantsman Sandra Sorani Andrea Flynn Elizabeth Horin Jordan Braciszewski	Round Table

**2:50 – 4:20pm Workshops**

	Room	Title	Presenters	Format
	303	Public Policy Advocacy	Brad Olson	Workshop
	310	An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems for Community Psychologists	Melissa Quon Huber Steven Pierce	Workshop
	203	Taking the Mystery Out of the Grant Process	Representatives from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation	Workshop

4:30 – 5:30pm

**Concurrent Sessions**

<b>Room</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Format</b>
203	19	How should we examine Person-Environment fit?	Ronald Crouch Susan McMahon Christopher Keys Luciano Berardi Ed Trickett Pennie Foster-Fishman	Symposia
303	20	Environmental Justice in Chicago's Little Village: Linking Community Psychology and Community Development	Liezl Alcantara Marisol Becerra	Individual Presentation
310	21	Living large: A look at how community psychologists can benefit from the organizational sciences	Cécile Lardon Branda Nowell	Round Table
311	22	Comprehensive Social Policy Preventive Intervention in the Schools: Reducing Tobacco, Drug Use and Drug Selling Behaviors	Courtney Harris Dr. Leonard Jason Monica Adams Anna Marshall Darrin Aase Annie Topliff Morgan Morello Hyo Yeon Kim	Symposia
312	23	Motivational Interviewing and the Practice of Community Psychology	Erin Droege Jordan Braciszewski	Individual Presentation
300	24	Society for Community Research and Action Brainstorming Session	Robert Gutierrez Debra Jozefowicz-Simbeni Nicole Porter	Round Table

6:00pm

**Optional Evening Outing – Location To Be Announced**

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**2008 Conference Planning Committee**

Erin Droege  
Peter Hubbard  
Megan Greeson  
Lauren Lichty  
Meeta Banerjee  
Charles Collins  
Kristen Law

## Presentation Abstracts

9:30 – 10:30

### Concurrent Sessions

[1]

#### Homelessness Across Perspectives

*Valerie Anderson, Jordan Braciszewski, Benjamin Hidalgo, Patrick Janulis, Brian P. Bell, Steven R. Howe, Katherine Baum, Yvonne Roberts*

Between 700,000 to 2 million people are homeless on any given night in the United States. Furthermore, homelessness is multi-faceted and exists within a complicated array of community dynamics. The papers of this symposium aim to address research and action on homelessness from a variety of perspectives. This multi-perspective approach will, hopefully, provide insight into the truly complex nature of homelessness as a community issue of academic interest. Valerie will discuss her narrative approach to exploring the identity of persons sitting at the intersection of three marginalized social locations: homelessness, mental illness, and felony status. Jordan will present findings from a study of psychological distress experienced by youth who are homeless and the role of family environment. Patrick will share results from his exploration of community member attitudes toward homelessness. Ben will discuss his work on participatory community responses to homelessness. Through a discussion of these specific projects, this symposium also hopes to more broadly address issues that are of concern to a variety of community interventionist/researchers; not just those interested in homelessness.

#### Examining Homelessness and Related Statuses through Narrative

*Valerie Anderson*

There has been a significant amount of research conducted in the fields of psychology, social work, education, sociology, criminal justice, law, among other fields that supports the notion that there are inherent relationships between the homeless, incarcerated, and mentally ill populations. Much of the previous research literature has focused on one or two of these components, but upon a more extensive review of the literature they are seemingly all interrelated and cannot be teased apart or looked at as sole entities. The present narrative study aims to understand the complex relationships among homelessness and these other related statuses. Ten homeless men with felony status are participants in a semi-structured interview and case file study. Through understanding how these individuals interpret their life experiences and current situation, service providers will be able to develop better programs and interventions. The findings will be explicitly discussed in light of an evidence-based intervention/treatment design with these individuals. Finally, this tri-partite model will also be discussed in terms of recommendations made to service providers and policy makers.

#### Family Environment and Psychological Distress in Homeless Youth

*Jordan M. Braciszewski, Paul A. Toro, Debra M. H. Jozefowicz-Simbeni, Ty Partridge, Emily R. Grekin*

Homelessness continues to be a major social problem, effecting more than one million children per year. The effects of homelessness appear to be severe, with homeless adolescents reporting far more symptoms of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, and alcohol and drug abuse when compared to normative samples. In addition, the family environment to which homeless youth are exposed is generally laden with conflict, abuse, parental rejection, and openly hostile behaviors. When compared to other at-risk youth, results are blurred, as proper longitudinal studies with appropriate comparison groups have yet to be published. This study seeks to understand psychological distress and the role of family environment in a sample of homeless and at-risk, housed youth in a major metropolitan city. Youth were assessed periodically over a seven year period. Implications for intervention are also discussed, particularly with regard to ethnic differences.

#### Community Attitudes toward Homelessness: Beliefs versus Behavior

*Patrick Janulis*

This study examines the self-reported attitudes of university students and police officers towards homelessness. It is the second stage in a mixed method project examining the prejudice experienced by male homeless individuals living at a transitional living center. To assess attitudes towards these individuals, students and police officers completed the Attitudes Towards Homelessness Inventory (ATHI) along with several additional questions. Both students and Police officers reported low stigmatization of homelessness with ATHI totals and subscales inconsistent with the reports of prejudice experienced by homeless individuals in the community. Such an inconsistency has two primary implications:

that the ATHI's ability to assess beliefs towards homelessness may be inadequate at assessing respondent's behaviors towards homeless individuals and accordingly interventions designed to decrease stigmatization of this group may be inadequate to reduce the prejudice they experience. Additionally, the context of the larger action research project is discussed with special focus towards the ongoing task of community intervention.

Collaborative Community Responses to Homelessness: Exploring Liberatory Approaches  
*Ben Hidalgo*

Homelessness is a complex phenomenon that is affected by and, in turn, affects many aspects of a community. As a result, in most communities, there is, to some degree, a coordinated community response to homelessness. Community stakeholders such as service providers (social workers, case managers, therapists, etc), law enforcement, civic leaders, housing administrators, activists, academic researchers, and so on frequently engage each other in discussion as to how best serve people who are homeless. Such coordination can be formal and extensive such as with wrap around services, it can be less extensive such as with shared fundraising and policy advocacy, or it can be very casual such as through the informal sharing of best practices or referral sources among acquaintances whose work with homeless populations overlaps. In all of these types of coordinated responses the contribution of people who are themselves homeless is largely missing. I argue that this lack of substantive input results in a situation disempowering, neo-colonial, community climate in which experts condescend to fix, take care of, and speak for people who are homeless. While a collaborative model that aggregates the wisdom and resources of various interventionists is usually seen as essential, the wisdom and resources of the target population are largely ignored when the community responds to homelessness. Approaches that claim to help people who are homeless while excluding the meaning making systems and expertise of people who are actually homeless, while perhaps successful by some measures, have the dehumanizing iatrogenic effect of denying voice and further marginalizing an oppressed group. At the same time anecdotal and empirical evidence suggests that people who are homeless are usually in crisis and are not necessarily well positioned to speak to bigger picture strategies for dealing with homelessness. Through a group discussion, I would like to explore with the audience the possibility of developing ***pragmatic liberatory approaches*** to dealing with homelessness that create more humanizing interactions with people who are homeless and allow for their perspective to substantively drive the community response.

[2]  
**Start Consulting: How to bring the value and values of Community Psychology to the real world?**  
*Judah Viola, Susan McMahon, Bradley Olson*

Potential careers for students in community psychology programs are diverse and often untraditional. In fact, many students focus so hard on getting through their programs that they do not have much information about their options and how to get their careers started. One option is to work with community based organizations, non-profits, social service providers, schools, churches, and or government agencies as a consultant. However, few classes or texts walk potential consultants/evaluators through the process of forming a sound practice with the proper foundation to succeed both in retaining their values and financial solvency. The authors have worked as part-time consultants with non-profits, educational institutions, and community organizations. In addition they are in the process of publishing a book on the topic of how to get started in consulting with non-profits. The purpose of this presentation/symposium is to share our experiences and findings from research into the topic that may be relevant for community psychology students who want to learn about what it takes to get started in consulting. In addition, the discussion will encourage all participants to share their experiences and help increase the quantity of work with organizations in the public sector. Topics covered will include: Why consulting?; When to start; Resources you'll need (Internal resources, External resources); Considerations in starting a consulting business; Should you incorporate? If so, what kind of business to create?; Strategic Planning/Business plan; Having partners v. Going it alone; Services to provide; Part time v. Full time.

[3]  
**Understanding social change within legal education: Strengths and challenges to promoting student mental health**  
*Andrea Flynn, Jayme Taylor, Bernadette Sanchez*

Previous research has indicated that law students are particularly at-risk for experiencing and developing psychological symptoms and distress. Additional research suggests that many students develop these problems *during* law school, and anecdotal literature implicates features of the academic environment as the source. Drawing upon community psychology literature and a study conducted on law school stressors, this presentation will focus on social change in the law school environment. It will also reveal the authors' struggles to promote law students mental health and well-being with the underlying power structures in law schools and larger educational environments. Furthermore, this presentation will explore the authors' attempts to disentangle multiple levels of influence and our efforts



to create changes at these varying levels to assist students. The final focus of this presentation will include dialogue with audience members about ways to operate within educational systems that are resistant to change and the ethical concerns associated with conducting this type of work.

[4]

#### **Exploration of a Psychological Sense of Community Among Torture Survivors**

***Nancy Bothne, Ana Martinez, Margaret Miller, Kirsten Dickins, Eucarol Juarez, Carly Kaplan***

This research study describes how the impact of torture isolates individuals from communities. We will examine the data from men and women torture survivors, and we will compare the themes that arise from their interviews to see if there is a difference of psychological sense of community based on gender. It is a qualitative study and coding will be used to identify broad conceptual frameworks; variations within those frameworks will help explain the diversity of understandings, nuances and uses within broad constructs to determine the meaning of a psychological sense of community among torture survivors. The investigators discuss implications for future research.

[5]

#### **The International Community Psychology Scene: Looking at Ways to Connect Across Borders**

***Sarah Beehler, Nicholas Kaufmann, Myra Margolin***

At the recent 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Community Psychology (ICCP) in Lisbon, Portugal, a group of graduate students from several countries got together to discuss forming an international network of community psychology students and young professionals. As an initial step, the group set up a Facebook page under the group name Co-Part-Act-In' Network. Four members of this group would like to hold a roundtable discussion at the 2008 Midwest ECO Conference with other students interested in forming international connections amongst community psychology students and young professionals. Broadly, we would like to explore what it means to have an international network and what we might expect from such a group. Could an international network help address some challenges we face in our work? What activities could such a network promote? What discussions should we be having with community psychologists in other countries? Which other forums for communication and connection could we explore? In this session, other specific issues of interest to the four members could be explored, including:

- Building connections between exciting work happening abroad and in the United States;
- Furthering our thinking about what it means to be an American or American-educated community psychologist working abroad;
- Examining community psychology values in an international context;
- Considering how the current degree of global interconnectedness impacts our work.

All notes from the roundtable will be posted on Co-Part-Act-In' Network's facebook page in order to share the conversation with our colleagues both in the US and abroad. Points made during the discussion will also help the group better serve its members, as well as other community psychology students and young professionals worldwide.

**10:40 – 11:40**

### **Concurrent Sessions**

[6]

#### **Homelessness Across Perspectives**

***Valerie Anderson, Jordan Braciszewski, Benjamin Hidalgo, Patrick Janulis, Brian P. Bell, Steven R. Howe, Katherine Baum, Yvonne Roberts***

See description above.

[7]

#### **Presentations on Power and Empowerment**

#### **Contemporary Sociological Theories and Community Psychology: Bringing Back Power and Structure into the Inequation**

***Urmitapa Dutta***

Community psychology as a discipline has been committed to ecological and contextual approaches to understanding social problems (Kelly, 2003; Rappaport, 1981; Trickett, 1997). However, recent reviews of the field suggest a continuing emphasis on individual rather than setting-level focus (Nelson & Prilleltensky, 2005; Weinstein, 2006). As a consequence, much of the research in community psychology tends to focus on the consequences of oppression or marginalization rather than examining the underlying structural conditions. This along with recent calls for a more critical theoretical

stance in community psychology (Monterey Declaration of Critical Community Psychology, 2001) suggest that we need to explicitly consider the role of sociological structures in maintaining oppression and marginalization. One way of addressing this problem is by exploring the relatively untapped arena of contemporary critical sociological theories in our research and practice as community psychologists. This presentation will explore the potential of critical theories in enhancing our conceptual repertoire around social critique, problem definition, altering and improving status quo and issues of power, culture and subjectivity in our work. These understandings are likely to facilitate more critical and highly nuanced ways of thinking about context that promote the values of social justice central to our discipline. They can potentially enrich, inform and allow for the iterative processes of research, social action and theory development in the field of community psychology.

### **Processes of Empowerment and Conscientization: incursions on the existence of Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, challenges for Community Psychology**

***Mara Bicas, José H. Ornelas, Isabel Menezes***

This presentation is based on an experience of a scientific investigation project in loco, carried out within the scope of the Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, in the northwest of Pernambuco, and considers how participation in a social movement can foster processes of identity, conscientization and empowerment. Towards a political community psychology, the present work assumes an intersection between the liberation journey of community psychology and Paulo Freire's theory. Thus, this analysis focused on a participant observation of different contexts of action carried out by the Landless Workers Movement, in camping and settling areas of the agrarian reform, where deep interviews were done to the various actors implied in the process. The strong socialization and politization processes of the Landless were the basis which allowed a clear comprehension of the meaning of the empowerment and critical consciousness concepts as components of social change. In this context, the fight for agrarian reform with the aim of transforming the social structures which involve the big landowner power emerges as a struggle against the different ways of oppression leading them to develop a critical consciousness on this existent correlated forces and different readings of reality. In this diversity and daily existence, the process of revealing themselves as constructors of the History takes place through their work in reality (practice), where the reflection and critical comprehension developed by this social movement starts becoming real, as an awareness and organized action, when it understands its role in History as a fight to overcome their condition as oppressed people. We believe that the analysis of engagement in organized social movements, whose critical perspective allows the questioning of status quo directed to enhance routes to liberation/emancipation, may be vital to broaden the dialogue about the values of community psychology and challenging for our own community interventions.

### **From empowerment to powerlessness: Challenges facing an empowerment orientation**

***Erin Droege, Pennie Foster-Fishman***

In 1981 Rappaport challenged the field of community psychology to shift from an orientation of prevention to one of empowerment. While this shift has extended our thinking about how to address community problems, it has also created a new form of paradox in which an empowerment focus can lead to conditions of powerlessness. In this presentation we will expand on Riger's critique of empowerment theory and discuss what we believe is a need to shift from the paradigm of empowerment to a paradigm of power. Specifically, we will discuss the paradoxes regarding which agents in the community can be empowered and to what extent empowerment is bounded by the socio-political forces. We will draw on examples from our own community work and as well as theory from various disciplines to aid in our discussion.

[8]

### **Using Community Psychology Principles to Critique Research**

***Allison Dymnicki, Sarah Beehler, Wing Yi Chan***

A common struggle of new community psychologists involves applying abstract principles learned in the classroom to analyze the research they read. This symposium presents findings from three conceptual reviews where the authors applied community psychology principles to further understanding of school-based mental health programming, school-based violence prevention programs, and youth civic engagement. The first review emphasizes the importance of creating a fit between school-based mental health interventions and local school contexts. The second review looks at the person- and setting-level intervening processes of effective school-based violence prevention programs. Lastly, the third presentation presents a conceptual theory of civic engagement among Asian-American adolescents that emphasizes empowerment and socio-political context. These three presentations will discuss the process by which authors came to their conclusions and how community psychology values, such as collaboration, ecology, and respect for diversity, guided these conceptual reviews.

[9]

**Ex- Offenders, Substance Abusers, Mentally Ill: Alternatives to Total Institutions**

**Leonard Jason, Brad Olson, John Majer, Ron Harvey, Joseph Ferrari, Darrin Aase, Stephanie Marez, Phyllis Timpo, LaTasha Washington, Courtney Harris, Anna Marshall, Bronwyn Hunter, Lisa Walt, G. Anne Bogat, Jody Backrach, Dave Muller**

Historically, ex-offenders, substances abusers, and many people with mental illnesses have received traditional treatments within institutions that had few provisions for aftercare. This roundtable discussion will explore alternative treatment options for these vulnerable individual who often face unstable housing and limited job opportunities. When programs are designed by practitioners, they are often expensive and can only reach a limited number of the thousands in need of services. Specifically, the panel members will discuss different types of aftercare, particularly those types that are inexpensive and accessible by ex-offenders and individuals with substance abuse problems. Our experiences with an organization called Oxford House, which involves over 9,000 individuals in recovery, will be highlighted. The roundtable will include undergraduates, post BA research assistants, graduate students, and Ph.D. level researchers in the field of community psychology, along with community members of the Oxford House organization, who will offer their insights on what may be the best alternatives to re-entry strategies for previously institutionalized individuals. The roles that community psychologists can play in this paradigm shift in aftercare services will be discussed. One discussant will offer insight at the end of the session, and audience participation will be encouraged.

[10]

**Empowerment, Diversity, and Schools: The Cutting Edge of Community Psychology**

**Chris Keys, Susan McMahon, Michele Morgan, Adia Gooden, Dina Birman**

Empowerment has historically been conceptualized and assessed primarily at the individual level. Within the purview of this study, an empowering organization is a school system that helps to support individual schools in their work to serve students with disabilities. We will explore the characteristics that lead to organizational empowerment for schools seeking to serve students with disabilities. Using qualitative methodology we analyzed principal interviews from 17 schools that were receiving students with disabilities after the close of school primarily serving students with disabilities within the school system. A number of contextual and multileveled themes emerged that convey the ways in which schools were empowered. Schools were determined to be empowered by the school system's central office; an administrative body that was charged with supporting the transition. Several factors surfaced that illustrate this empowering relationship such as communication, structural support, and resources. Additionally, schools were determined to be empowered by their own school level experience and history working with students with disabilities. Several factors emerged that illustrate this form of empowerment such as previous experience, perception of fit, and the presence of resources in place prior to the transition. A discussion on the strengths and limitations of organizational empowerment research will follow.

**11:50 – 12:50pm**

**Keynote Panel**

**Living Out the Values of Community Psychology in the Real World**

**Branda Nowell - North Carolina State University**

**Pennie Foster-Fishman - Michigan State University**

**Edison Trickett - University of Illinois at Chicago**

**Nicole Porter - Center for Community Research**

The panel will discuss strategies and challenges in trying to incorporate community psychology values into post-graduate school careers in the "real world". While graduate students are exposed to the values of the field during their training, there is often limited discussion on how to actually sustain these values when working with settings that do not embrace our community psychology principles and ideals. This forum will draw on the experiences of four community psychologists who have strove to truly live out the values of our field in their work and will begin a conversation about some of the realities of doing community psychology in the real world.

1:40 – 2:40

## Concurrent Sessions

[11]

### **An Ecosocial Model of Psychological Distress Among African American Women: Implications for Community Research and Action**

*Jane K. Burke-Miller*

Excess psychological distress experienced by African American women is attributable to social inequalities in class, race, and gender. A value of community psychology is that it recognizes that multidisciplinary and multilevel efforts are needed to address such social problems across ecological systems. Therefore, this presentation describes the use of social epidemiology's Ecosocial Theory to develop an ecosocial model of the multilevel material and psychosocial factors that influence Black American women's psychological distress. Ecosocial Theory is a metatheory encompassing theories and constructs useful for analyzing social determinants of health. Using Ecosocial Theory, lived experiences of inequality are examined in terms of the social, political, and economic contexts in which people live their lives, rather than personal identities and behaviors. In keeping with Ecosocial Theory, the proposed ecosocial model offers a framework for developing hypotheses regarding: a) embodiment, or how various material and social conditions manifest in psychological distress for Black women; b) the roles of material and psychosocial pathways of embodiment; and c) cumulative interactions across levels of effect. A core concept of Ecosocial Theory is accountability and agency, which in the proposed ecosocial model is represented by emphasis on the value of community-based research and action in countering socially produced psychological distress.

[12]

### **Training Community Psychologists in Public Policy**

*Aaron Boulton, Nicole Porter, Leonard Jason, Christopher Keys, Brad Olson, Steve Howe, Penny Foster-Fishman, Erin Droege, Benjamin Graham, Nikki Roesner, Joshua Herrington*

The number of community psychologists involved in public policy has remained a small and elite group throughout the discipline's history. However, this is changing with a current trend toward public policy among Division 27 members. One step necessary to foster this growth then is to provide adequate policy training to all levels of community psychologists, from fledgling undergraduate and graduate students, to young professionals and faculty. The scope of this discussion will focus primarily on policy coursework and related training at the collegiate level. Specifically, how can graduate and undergraduate programs in community psychology incorporate policy education into the curriculum? What challenges and issues arise when attempting to amend curriculum to include policy courses? What other creative ways can community psychologists—aside from adding official policy courses—train our students to think policy? These questions and others will be addressed in hopes of beginning a divisional dialogue concerning policy training for students of community psychology.

[13]

### **Challenges and Strategies When Working Community Based Organizations: Perspectives Across Community Contexts**

*Benjamin Hidalgo, Robert Gutierrez, Maria Valenti*

Academic community psychologists often rely formal and informal collaborations with community based organizations (CBOs). Engaging these institutions as partners in our action and research adds an extra layer of complexity to our work. In these partnerships CBOs often bring their own agendas and political parameters to the table. For the academic, navigating these relationships while remaining accountable to the demands of academia and the needs of the target populations in the community can be challenging. This aim of this roundtable is to explore two or three issues related to collaboration with CBOs and share strategies, on the ground tactics, and lessons learned around addressing them. All participants will be invited to suggest issues for discussion and, as a group, we will prioritize which ones will be addressed during the session. Possible issues to be addressed include. (1) Sustainability of the partnerships/interventions (2) Determining to whom we are accountable, (3) working with under-resourced and under-funded organizations, (4) How to balance the generation of knowledge products that are consumable by the partners while still remaining accountable to the scholarly literature, and (5) working with agencies with politics and agendas that differ from yours.

[14]

## **Presentations on PAR**

### **Is there value in using participatory action research with criminal offenders?**

***Lauren Marlotte***

Values are inherent in choosing research topics, research methods and the ways in which research questions are approached. When Participatory Action Research (PAR) is used, participants work as co-collaborators with researchers and engage in power sharing. The goal of PAR is to create sustainable changes as a result of utilizing an insider's perspective and to frame areas of growth within the specific environmental context (Travers, 1997). It has been suggested that using convicts as co-researchers will result in "better" research (Toch, 1967). For example, identification of information about grooming techniques used by child sex offenders would be impossible to thoroughly obtain without determining this from the offender; this information could then be used to aid in prevention of sex crimes (Kaufman, 2008). PAR has successfully been used in a prison setting to evaluate educational programs (Fine, 2006). It has also been suggested that using offender knowledge can result in effective prevention efforts without engaging in PAR. Some research has shown that offenders are more likely to reveal information in a structured and anonymous setting without utilizing interviews, which is incongruent with PAR methods (Kaufman, 2008). PAR assumes participants should be empowered and have a method by which they can express their own voice through development of research methods and identifying services needed; because offenders, particularly sex offenders, are seen in a negative light, and perhaps even inept at such insight, PAR may not be the best method. PAR assumes participants are striving to seek positive changes and it is possible offenders may participate to seek secondary gain. This review of research seeks to determine the value in utilizing criminal offenders in PAR who can offer a unique insight into prevention versus determining the value in not using offenders in PAR and preventing empowerment of and giving voice to offenders.

### **Participatory Action Research with Youth**

***Kristen Law***

Engaging youth in data analysis and social action are essential steps in Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR). YPAR is an effective method for promoting youth power and participation within communities, particularly when it incorporates youth knowledge generation, critical consciousness-raising, and action. To date there is a lack of models and strategies that illustrate how to effectively engage youth in these types of processes. For this presentation I will discuss strategies for engaging youth in all phases of research and some of the benefits of doing PAR with youth.

[15]

### **Community Psychology Values: Beyond the Textbook**

***Olya Belyaev-Glantsman, Sandra Sorani, Andrea Flynn, Elizabeth Horin, Jordan Braciszewski***

We often describe Community Psychology by talking about the field's values and principles including sense of community, social justice, citizen participation, collaboration, respect for human diversity, empirical grounding, etc. Throughout their careers, Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) members may come to find some of these values/principles more relevant than others. Even though there is still not a consensus for which of these are essential for the field, in general, these values and principles guide the topics and the methods of Community Psychology. In this round table discussion, a group of graduate students and recent graduates will talk about how Community Psychology values and principles influence their own teaching, research, and clinical work.

**2:50 – 4:20**

## **Workshops**

[16]

### **Public Policy Advocacy**

***Brad Olson***

How do we use our tools as community psychologists to bring about social and policy change? There is voting, the signing of petitions, and the sending of letters to members of congress. These are all important steps, but what if you eventually want to use community psychology to work toward larger and more direct forms of change? What is the psychology of community action? How do policy change efforts start, and how do coalitions form? What are the skills that can be most useful, and what obstacles and ethical quandaries are bound to arise? How can a group determine the scope of its efforts and choose among different possible mechanisms of change? What as a field do we need to know more about? In the workshop, we'll use the fight against psychologists in U.S. "war on terror" detention centers as a narrative example, and discuss some of the successes and challenges to this effort. Then we'll discuss how that knowledge can be adapted to any social justice or human rights-related attempt toward meaningful policy change.

[17]

### **An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems for Community Psychologists**

*Melissa Quon Huber, Steven Pierce*

In a paper that encourages community psychologists to make greater use of quantitative methods that capture and represent context in community science, Luke (2005) recommended increased use of geographic information systems (GIS) as a way to expand our collective methodological repertoire. This workshop will give the audience an overview of what GIS is, what it can do, and how it can be applied in community work. We will use examples from our work evaluating a community change initiative to show the audience how GIS allows you to capture, store, manage, display, and analyze spatial data linked to geographic features (e.g., census tracts, buildings, and streets), create and compare maps, and perform new kinds of analyses. We will discuss the kinds of data you can use, how to get started, and where to find existing spatial datasets, relevant resources, and expert assistance.

[18]

### **Taking the Mystery Out of the Grant Process**

*Representatives from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation*

The session will provide an overview of organized philanthropy, advice on how to approach foundations for funding, a review of the characteristics of quality funding proposals, and some counsel on making the case for funding. Although foundation requirements and procedures vary widely, there are some common elements that are useful to consider when approaching a foundation for funding. Many of the principles presented in this session may also be useful in developing an approach to foundations in other countries.

**4:30 – 5:30**

## **Concurrent Sessions**

[19]

### **How should we examine Person-Environment fit?**

*Ronald Crouch, Susan McMahon, Christopher Keys, Luciano Berardi, Ed Trickett, Pennie Foster-Fishman*

As part of the ecological perspective within the field, Person-Environment (PE) fit is a central concept in community psychology. The concept of PE fit has helped community psychologists frame questions of interest and organize findings so that they can be shared and understood in the field. But how are we currently defining and measuring PE fit? A number of challenges arise when attempting to operationalize a concept that is abstract and rooted in context. In this roundtable we present and discuss ongoing school-based research that examines PE fit using quantitative measures, and multiple perspectives. More specifically, we hope to address the following questions in our roundtable discussion: How do we define “fit”? While collecting data on person variables might be straightforward, how do we collect data on environmental variables? Is there a particular methodology that works best (or worst) when assessing PE fit? Does the concept of PE fit continue to be useful for the field, or is there a better way to conceptualize the interaction between individuals and their environment?

[20]

### **Environmental Justice in Chicago’s Little Village: Linking Community Psychology and Community Development**

*Liezl Alcantara, Marisol Becerra*

Community psychologists have a crucial role to play in the formation, development, and sustainability of our neighborhoods and cities. The revitalization of communities carries implications for applied research and evaluation, especially regarding environmental issues. Bridging the fields of community psychology and community development can assist community members in addressing issues of environmental adversity and injustice. Physical conditions vary drastically between urban areas, including levels of air pollution, access to public transportation, and amount of green space. Environmentally, urban low-income and ethnic minority populations face institutional discrimination through housing and residential segregation, gentrification, and physical neighborhood disinvestment. One Chicago community organization has responded to environmental injustice through its campaigns and action initiatives. Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) is an example of collective empowerment in action. LVEJO utilizes community assets to address critical environmental needs and systemic injustice. The organization works within the Little Village and Pilsen neighborhoods of Chicago, together forming the largest urban concentration of Mexican Americans in the U.S. outside of East Los Angeles. LVEJO’s campaigns include Clean Power, Community Mapping, Healthy Latino Schools, Public Transit, Urban Agriculture, and the Youth Campaign. Inherently, LVEJO promotes the principles of community psychology and community development through its emphases on wellness, sustainability, participation, justice for disadvantaged populations, leadership, and community strengths. This presentation will frame environmental

justice according to the principles of community psychology and community development. LVEJO's successful action projects will be described and discussed. We will be joined by Marisol Becerra, a representative of the Little Village community and LVEJO. Ms. Becerra is a recipient of the prestigious 2008 Brower Youth Award for her environmental work in Little Village.

[21]

**Living large: A look at how community psychologists can benefit from the organizational sciences**

***Cécile Lardon, Branda Nowell***

The organizational sciences are a broad area of study that includes topics such as leadership, organizational change and development, team building, management, systems theories, staff selection, training, and development, and applied research methods. Most community psychologists will encounter similar issues in their work, but are often reluctant to immerse themselves in the business and management literature. Many assume that business organizations are fundamentally different from community and non-profit organizations and that issues related to running their project (e.g., hiring and training staff, developing a workable structure and process for the project) are only secondary to the content area they are interested in (e.g., domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, etc.). Furthermore, psychology as a discipline is still very much focused on changing the behavior and attitudes of individuals.

In this presentation we will reflect on how concepts and theories from the organizational sciences have facilitated our work. Branda will talk about institutionalism and sense making. Cécile will focus on leadership and organization development. We will also talk more broadly about how community psychologist could benefit from organizational and management scholarship.

[22]

**Comprehensive Social Policy Preventive Intervention in the Schools: Reducing Tobacco, Drug Use and Drug Selling Behaviors**

***Courtney Harris, Dr. Leonard Jason, Monica Adams, Anna Marshall, Darrin Aase, Annie Topliff, Morgan Morello, Hyo Yeon Kim***

This symposium addresses the impact of enforcement of tobacco policies and social environmental factors on a diverse range of youth smoking-related behaviors. Data from youth in twenty-four towns, which were randomly assigned to two conditions, were used in these studies. The experimental condition involved PUP (Purchase, Use, and Possession) law enforcement and reducing minors' access to commercial sources of tobacco, and the control involved only efforts to reduce minors' access to commercial sources of tobacco. Two studies used Hierarchical Linear Modeling analytic approach. One study found that students living in experimental communities were less likely to purchase tobacco than students who were not living in these communities. Another study found that students in the control condition had a significantly greater increase in the percentage of youth who smoked 20 or more cigarettes per day when compared with the experimental condition. Additionally, Path Analysis was used in creating a model to examine the peer and family related factors that not only influence youth to smoke, but also influence youth to engage in anti-smoking behaviors. The results of these studies have important implications on efforts to reduce youth smoking and tobacco purchasing as well as to promote anti-smoking behaviors.

**Policy Efforts to Reduce Smoking Among Students Addicted to Tobacco**  
*Courtney Harris, Dr. Leonard Jason, Monica Adams*

This study evaluated the effects of tobacco PUP (Purchase, Use and Possession) laws on patterns of tobacco use among students in twenty-four towns, which were randomly assigned into two conditions. The experimental condition involved both PUP law enforcement and reducing minors' access to commercial sources of tobacco, and the control condition involved only efforts to reduce minors' access to commercial sources of tobacco. A Hierarchical Linear Modeling analytical approach was selected due to the multilevel data and nested design. Prior research had found that adolescents perceived that their own use of tobacco and drugs had significantly greater increases in the control than the experimental condition. The present study found that adolescents in the control condition had a significantly greater increase in the percentage of youth who smoked 20 or more cigarettes when compared to the experimental condition.

**Peer and Family Social Environments and their Relationships to Youth Smoking**  
*Anna Marshall, Darrin Aase, Leonard Jason, Monica Adams, Annie Topliff*

Research suggests that social environments, namely parents and peers, influence youth smoking, with youth who are exposed to smoking environments having a greater likelihood of smoking themselves. On the other hand, even when social figures do smoke, anti-smoking behaviors can act as protective forces against youth smoking behaviors. The current poster seeks to add to the current research on social environments and youth smoking by examining the factors

that influence youth not only to smoke, but also to engage in anti-smoking messages and behaviors. Although model construction and analyses are still underway, this poster will provide insight on a model that explains the relationship between peer and household smoking environments, peer and parental anti-smoking behaviors, and youth smoking and anti-smoking behaviors, using path analysis. The sample consisted of students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade, who participated in the Youth Tobacco Access Project. Data were collected through student surveys. Path analysis will be used to test this model and findings and implications will be presented.

Kids and Tobacco: Strategies to Reduce Access  
*Morgan Morello, Hyo Yeon Kim, Leonard Jason*

This study examined the impact of PUP (purchase, use, and possession) laws on students' tobacco purchasing habits in twenty-four different communities in Illinois. The communities were randomly assigned to two different conditions. The experimental condition involved both PUP law enforcement and reducing minors' access to commercial tobacco sources, and the control group involved only attempts to reduce minors' access to commercial tobacco sources. A Hierarchical Linear Modeling analytical approach was used for analysis. This study found that students living in experimental communities were less likely to purchase tobacco than the students who were not living in these communities.

[23]

### **Motivational Interviewing and the Practice of Community Psychology**

*Erin Droege, Jordan Braciszewski*

Although collaborative research methods take us beyond conventional methods of science, challenges still arise when working with communities. Distrust of university-affiliated individuals, extreme inequities of power and money, and conflict over priorities are just a few of the struggles that remain. While community psychologists continue to improve the theories of collaboration, practical steps of carrying out such models are lacking. In this session, we intend to address the disconnect of theory and practice by offering Motivational Interviewing (MI) – a client- or community-centered collaborative style for bringing about action by helping a group to explore and resolve forms of ambivalence – as means to effectively communicate with community members and neighborhoods. Based on principles such as evocation (instead of invocation), collaboration, and autonomy, MI helps empower a person or group to make effective changes in their environment; all key values of community psychology theory. We will present the fundamental theory of MI, examples of its language, and how it can be adapted to working with communities. The session will also be open to constructive feedback on this new theory and application.

[24]

### **Society for Community Research and Action Brainstorming Session**

*Robert E. Gutierrez, Debra Jozefowicz-Simbeni, Nicole Porter*

This will be a roundtable discussion with some of the current Midwest SCRA representatives in order to discuss current events and programs as well as to brainstorm new courses of action, student events, and outreach tactics. With the biennial approaching in the Spring it is a busy time for SCRA and this is great opportunity to voice questions and concerns about SCRA in the Midwest and discuss possible activities to undertake in the coming year.