



Brandeis University

Heller School for Social
Policy and Management

Community Engaged Scholarship: The Beginner's Guide

Cathy Burack
Senior Fellow Higher Education

Sponsored by Mass. Campus Compact
Mount Holyoke College
January 21, 2010



Today's agenda

- Roots and definitions
- Faculty competencies and development
- Documentation
- Institutional culture and assessment



Scholarship Reconsidered

- The scholarship of discovery refers to the pursuit of inquiry and investigation in search of new knowledge.
- The scholarship of integration consists of making connections across disciplines and advancing knowledge through synthesis.
- The scholarship of application asks how knowledge can be applied to the social issues of the times in a dynamic process that generates and tests new theory and knowledge.
- The scholarship of teaching includes not only transmitting knowledge, but also transforming and extending it.
- The scholarship of engagement connects any of the above dimensions of scholarship to the understanding and solving of pressing social, civic, and ethical problem

Ernest Boyer



Definitions: Community Engagement

"The application of institutional resources to address and solve challenges facing communities through collaboration with these communities."



Scholarship

"Teaching, discovery, integration, application and engagement; clear goals, adequate preparation, appropriate methods, significant results, effective presentation, and reflective critique that is rigorous and peer-reviewed."



National Initiatives and their definitions

- **Community Campus Partnerships for Health**
- **Imagining America**
- **ASA Public Sociology Task Force**
- **Scholarship of Engagement Online Clearinghouse**



Community-engaged Scholarship

"Scholarship that involves the faculty member in a mutually beneficial partnership with the community. Community-engaged scholarship can be trans-disciplinary and often integrates some combination of multiple forms of scholarship. For example, service-learning can integrate the scholarship of teaching, application, and engagement, and community-based participatory research can integrate the scholarship of discovery, integration, application and engagement." *(CCPH)*



A Caution

"It is important to point out that not all community-engaged activities undertaken by faculty are scholarship. For example, if a faculty member devotes time to developing a community-based health program, it may be important work and it may advance the service mission of the institution, but unless it includes the other components that define scholarship (e.g., clear goals, adequate preparation, appropriate methods, significant results, effective presentation, reflective critique, rigor, and peer review) it would not be considered scholarship."

Community Campus Partnerships for Health



Public scholarship

joins serious intellectual endeavor with a commitment to public practice and public consequence. It includes:

- Scholarly and creative work jointly planned and carried out by university and community partners;
- Intellectual work that produces a common good;
- Artistic, critical, and historical work that contributes to public debates;
- Efforts to expand the place of public scholarship in HE itself, incl. the development of new programs and research on the successes of such efforts.

Public scholarship in the humanities integrates all missions of HE: research, teaching, service & public engagement.

Imagining America



Public sociology

is research-based and includes both: a) translational work (the communication of existing sociological research to publics outside of our field), and b) the collaborative production of knowledge (cooperative work with publics in developing and completing new knowledge). Such work is the “public face” of the discipline...is informed by and reacts to the needs of CBO’s, social movement networks, and a variety of other public agencies. (ASA)



Scholarship of engagement

is a term that captures scholarship in the areas of teaching, research and/or service. It engages faculty in academically relevant work that simultaneously meets campus mission and goals as well as community needs. Engagement is a scholarly agenda that incorporates communities' issues and which can be within or integrative across teaching, research and service. In this definition, community is broadly defined to include audiences external to the campus that are part of a collaborative process to contribute to the public good. (*Scholarship of Engagement Online Clearinghouse*)



Brandeis University

Heller School for Social
Policy and Management

Faculty Competencies and Development

(see handouts)



Brandeis University

Heller School for Social
Policy and Management

Documentation



Faculty Review

The promotion and tenure review has basically three components: the documentation that the candidate provides, the materials that the committee collects, and the process by which the committee reviews these materials and conducts its deliberations. A well-prepared faculty member can go a long way in making his or her "case" by providing strong context and solid documentation for the committee to consider.

Diamond, R.M. (1995). Preparing for Promotion and Tenure Review: A Faculty Guide. Anker Publishing Company, Inc. (pg14).



Documenting

- Clear academic and community change goals
- Adequate preparation in content area and grounding in the community
- Appropriate methods: Rigor *and* community involvement
- Significant results: Impact on the field and the community
 - Impact on policy, policy related change, structural change



Documentation con't

- Effective presentation and dissemination to academic and community audiences
- Reflective critique
 - Includes reflection on the partnership along with the area of inquiry
- Leadership and personal contribution



Issues

- Is this legitimate work?
- What does engagement at the institution really look like? Mean?
- What does leadership think about relative to their own discipline? The CAO, P&T chair, etc.
- Does the governing board have some mechanism that addresses civic engagement (e.g. Project Peracles institutions all have a board committee)



Institutions with existing policies

- Portland State University
- Cal State Long Beach
- University of WI
- University of Minnesota



Brandeis University

Heller School for Social
Policy and Management

Institutional assessment

(see handouts)



Brandeis University

**Heller School for Social
Policy and Management**

Cathy Burack
burack@brandeis.edu

Center for Youth and Communities