

SCHOLAR ACTIVISM AS A NEXUS BETWEEN RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM VIA THE USE OF PARTICIPATORY ARTS

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RESEARCH AS INTERVENTION

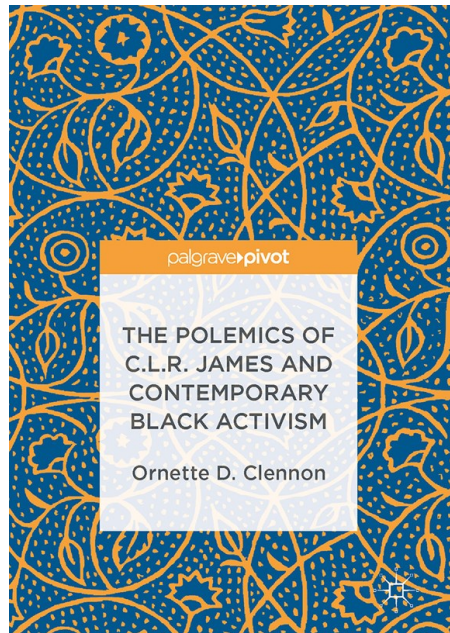
COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

ROLE OF RESEARCH IN THE COMMUNITY

- ITS NEOLIBERAL IMPLICATIONS FOR GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

ROLE OF PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES IN BUILDING “COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE” (WENGER, 2011, P. PARA 4)

- CONSCIENTISATION (MARTÍN-BARÓ, 1985)




Interdisciplinary research from the campaign that sets my scholar activism within a critical race studies context that was inspired by a conceptual framework provided by C.L.R. James.



RESEARCH AND PROCESS MEASURES

PROCESS MEASURES

- “THE PROCESS INVOLVED IN COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITIES...AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE *METHODOLOGY OF COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP*. THE COLLABORATIVE INQUIRY AND THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT FORM BETWEEN FACULTY AND COMMUNITIES TO EXAMINE AND ADDRESS PROBLEMS...” (ORIGINAL ITALICS) (CALLESON, ET AL., 2005, P. 319)
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COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

NELLO JAMES CAMPAIGN – PHASE 1



Our centre, fallen into disrepair and up for sale



IDS Photography



Our protests outside Nello James

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

PHASE 1 – SETTING UP THE FRIENDS OF NELLO JAMES

COMMUNITY FORUM

Our protests and Fun Days...



Inside our run down centre

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

PHASE 2 – SETTING UP THE CLR JAMES COMMUNITY ACTION TRUST

Selma James visiting us in Manchester and lending us her support



Selma and one of our campaigners



Selma and our local councillors

C.L.R. James and his writings, especially his *Black Jacobins* formed an ideological “community of practice” (Wenger, 2011)

- Process of “conscientisation” (Martín-Baró, 1985, p. 40) “The human being is transformed through changing his or her reality... there is a gradual decoding of the world, as people grasp the mechanisms of oppression”

BRIEF RESEARCH OUTLINE

KEEPING IT REAL?

- THE STUDY POPULATION WAS A RANDOM SAMPLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 – 24YRS (N=20) FROM THE BLACKPOOL AND GREATER MANCHESTER AREAS
- QUASI EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN: CONTROL GROUP (VIDEO), TEST GROUP (MUSIC GROUP)
- WE USED PRE+POST INTERVENTION CRIME PICS II QUESTIONNAIRES (FRUDE ET AL., 1994)
 - 5 ATTITUDINAL MEASURES: G (GENERAL SCORE), A (ANTICIPATION OF REOFFENDING), V (VICTIM EMPATHY), E (EVALUATION OF CRIME AS WORTHWHILE) P (LIFE PROBLEM INVENTORY)
 - EFFECT SIZE MEASUREMENT: PEARSON'S R CORRELATION
- WE USED PRE+POST 'MAP OF ME' GRAFFITI CHARTS (CLENNON, 2013)
 - LIFE ISSUES RANKED IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, PRE+POST INTERVENTION
 - EFFECT SIZE MEASUREMENT: SPEARMAN'S RANK

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM RESEARCH AS INTERVENTION

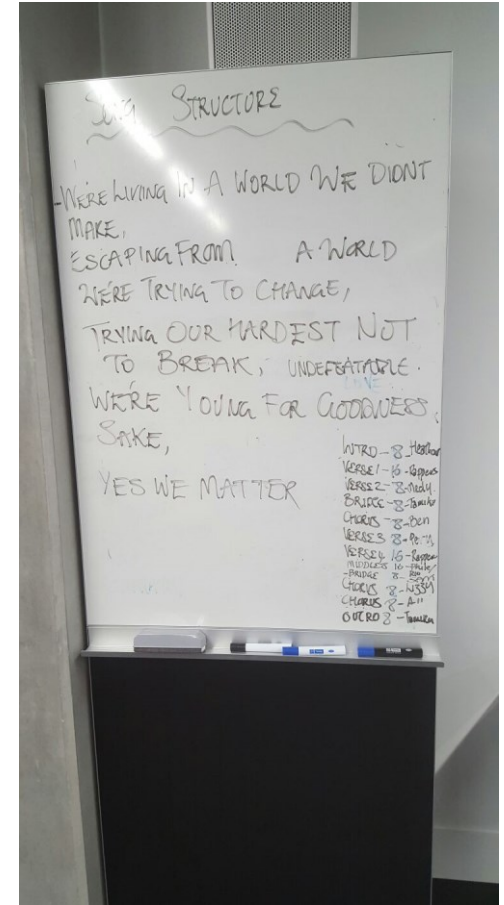


Our young people
filming with the BBC
at MMU

Photos courtesy of
Blue Matthews-Mason



Our young people
songwriting with local artists



COMMUNITY ACTIVISM RESEARCH AS INTERVENTION



Our young people rehearsing
with members of the
BBC Philharmonic orchestra

Me (not so young), kicking things off!!!



COMMUNITY ACTIVISM RESEARCH AS INTERVENTION




Our young people getting ready at the BBC



BRIEF RESEARCH OUTLINE

KEEPING IT REAL?

BRIEF SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- ONE PARTICIPANT ESPECIALLY NOTED THAT THE PROJECT HAD HELPED HER TO MANAGE HER ANXIETY ATTACKS MORE EFFECTIVELY
 - OTHER PARTICIPANTS NOTED HOW THE GROUP FORMED IMPORTANT SOCIAL BONDS THAT MADE THE GROUP FEEL LIKE A “FAMILY”
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RESEARCH AND PROCESS MEASURES

“PROCESS MEASURES” (CALLESON, JORDAN, & SEIFER, 2005)

- HIDDEN PROCESSES THAT ENABLE RESEARCH TO HAPPEN IN REAL WORLD SETTINGS
 - RECRUITMENT, RELATIONSHIP BUILDING/MANAGING, CO-PRODUCTION, CO-LEADERSHIP ETC

EVALUATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR PROCESS MEASURES (GLASSICK, ET AL., 1997)

- CLEAR GOALS
 - ADEQUATE PREPARATION
 - APPROPRIATE METHODS
 - SIGNIFICANT RESULTS
 - EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
 - REFLECTIVE CRITIQUE
- 




RESEARCH AND PROCESS MEASURES

CLEAR GOALS

OUR GOAL WAS TO USE A CREATIVE PROJECT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TO HIGHLIGHT THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. WE THOUGHT THAT IF WE COULD GATHER EVIDENCE OF THE EFFICACY OF CREATIVE PROJECTS THIS WOULD REINFORCE THE CASE FOR A COMMUNITY CENTRE HOUSING SUCH ACTIVITIES.

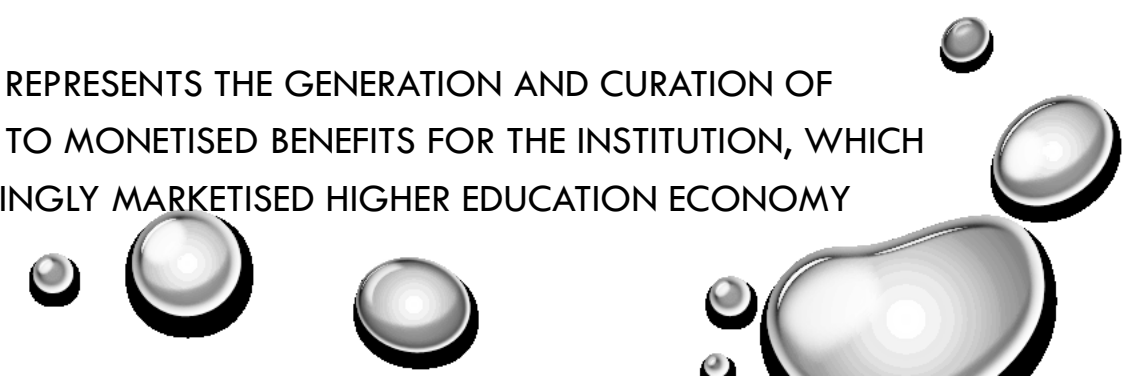
BALANCING

- WIDER NELLO JAMES CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES
 - COLLECTIVE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION (PURCELL, 2009; SCHER, 2007)
 - SPECIFIC KEEPING IT REAL? RESEARCH OBJECTIVES
 - PERSONAL CHANGE AND WELLBEING (SWINDELLS, ET AL., 2013)
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RESEARCH AND PROCESS MEASURES

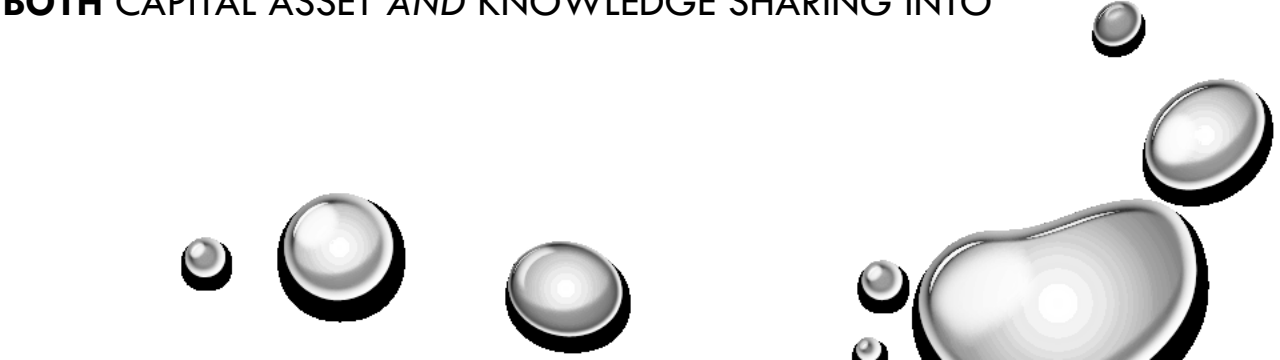
ADEQUATE PREPARATION: RESEARCH AND NEOLIBERALISM

- “RESEARCH FATIGUE” (MARTIKKE , CHURCH, & HEART, 2015, P. 137)
 - WE FOUND IN OUR C.L.R. JAMES INSPIRED-CONSCIENTISATION COMMUNITY MEETINGS THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS VERY ADEPT AT PROBLEMATISING THE FACTORS THAT LEAD TO THE REGULAR LOSSES OF THEIR COMMUNITY ASSETS. OUR AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES EXPRESSED THE CONCERNS THAT OFTEN THEY WERE NOT DEEMED ‘MARKETABLE’ ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO ATTRACT FUNDING OR INVESTMENT INTO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AS THEY WERE OFTEN OVERLOOKED BY MORE RECENTLY ARRIVED AND ‘MARKETABLE’ IMMIGRANTS.
 - CAN RESEARCH WITH ITS HIDDEN NEOLIBERAL AGENDAS (AND ITS INHERENT STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES (COBURN, 2004)) BE *EVER* A LIBERATORY FORCE FOR COMMUNITIES?
 - FOR A UNIVERSITY, ON THE OTHER HAND, RESEARCH PRIMARILY REPRESENTS THE GENERATION AND CURATION OF KNOWLEDGE. HOWEVER, THESE NOBLE AIMS ULTIMATELY LEAD TO MONETISED BENEFITS FOR THE INSTITUTION, WHICH HAVE CORRESPONDING IMPACTS ON ITS PLACE IN AN INCREASINGLY MARKETISED HIGHER EDUCATION ECONOMY
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RESEARCH AND PROCESS MEASURES

CONCLUSION

- UNIVERSITIES MIGHT NOT ALWAYS HAVE THE MOST ROBUST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AGENDAS (BENNEWORTH , CHARLES, & MADNIPOUR, 2010) TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO HIGH STAKES COMMUNITY NEEDS
 - COULD OUR KNOWLEDGE BE USED (EXCHANGED OR CO-PRODUCED) MORE PRODUCTIVELY, IN A LESS MARKET-ORIENTED MANNER BY OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS OR DO WE JUST NEED TO BE MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT THE MARKET NATURE OF THE TRANSACTION?
 - IN OUR FUTURE PARTNERSHIP BUILDING ACTIVITIES (AND RESEARCH) FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, WE WILL NEED TO STRATEGICALLY WORK OUT HOW TO COMBINE **BOTH** CAPITAL ASSET AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING INTO OUR ENGAGED PRACTICES
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