



Defining Community

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Community Psychology

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Announcements

- Next Tuesday (2/21) is a Monday schedule!!
- Assignment 2 will be available this week! Due 3/17

Forever Defining Ourselves

Write down some of the identities or pieces of you that you feel are most important. Put these pieces in shapes of different sizes. Let the size of the shape represent how important they are in defining who you are. Let the shapes overlap or mesh together if you believe these pieces overlap/mesh in some way.

Once complete take a look at yourself and think about the following two questions:

1. Do these pieces link you or place you in specific communities?
2. What exists within these overlaps?

Example Self Collage

Dream worker

Writer

Scholar

Healing

Black

Trans
Femme

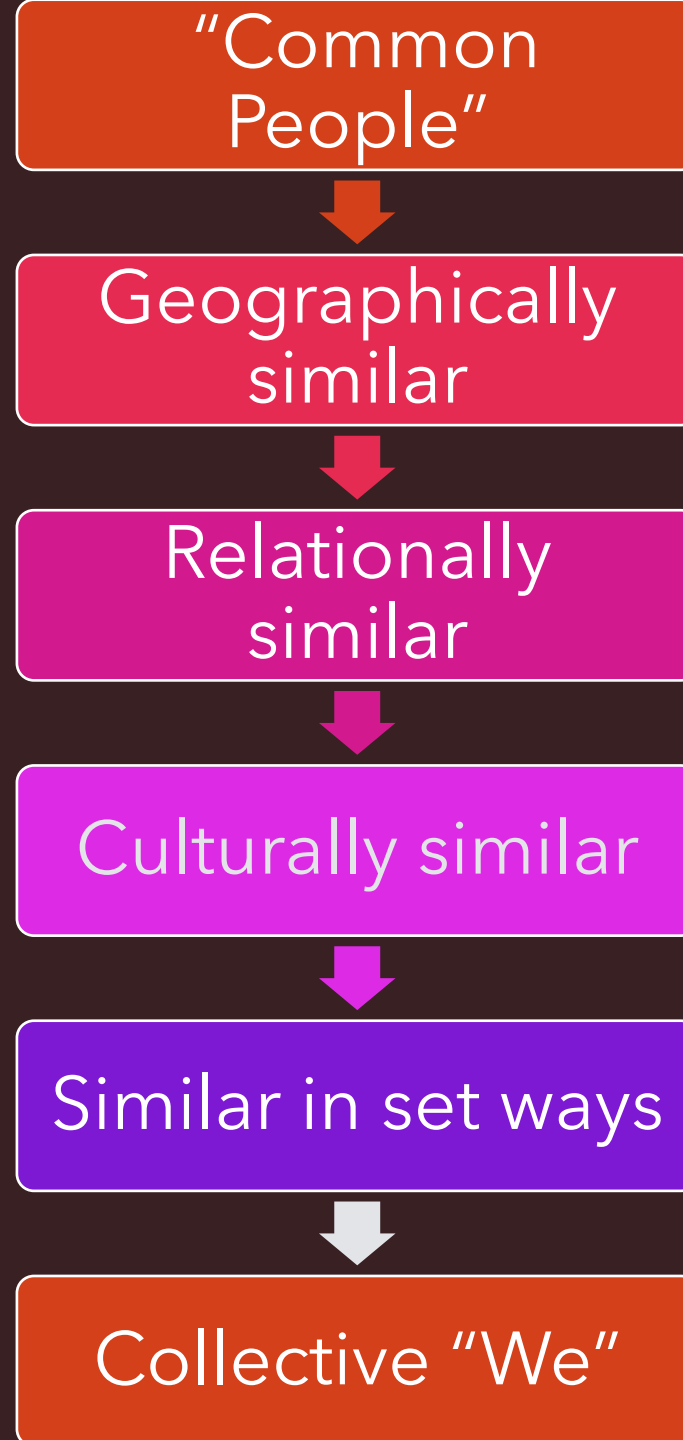
Queer

Gaymer

She's
Fashion

Dog Parent

A History not the
ONLY History



So, who can be “a community?”

Any group of people with similarities in their features, livelihoods, goals, geographical locations, thought patterns, and/or beliefs can be considered a community as long as they can find a sense of collective “we”. Communities do not have to look the same or even share all of the same characteristics in order to be considered a community.

A community in community psych research just needs to be clearly defined.

Factors of the Community



Identity

- Allows folks to find commonalities
- Brings in nuanced perspectives into the community
- Creates a community with diverse set of skills and backgrounds

- Extremely personal and often complicated/contradictory
- Often where/why a community fractures and conflict happens
- Can blur community goals and missions leading to dissent and ambiguity

Never losing the "I" in "We": Honoring that communities are always going to be complex and diverse.

Identity Conflict Scenario

CW: Police violence

Your current research project has you working with a group of BIPOC co-researchers. The project's focus is to understand and ultimately reduce/challenge police violence on BIPOC. 3 of your co-researchers are at an impasse. Aurora (A Black trans lesbian woman), Frankie (A cis/het Black man), and Riqué (an undocu-queer Salvadorian man). They all have a history of violence at the hands of the police. Each of them want to focus on the violence faced by their identity group specifically. Aurora wants to address Black trans women being picked up for nothing, assaulted, and put into men's prisons. Frankie wants to address Black men being stopped, harassed, arrested, and murdered. Riqué wants to talk about police and ICE working together to stop every Latine person in an attempt to deport them, and asylum seeking undocu-queer folks.

How might you address this?

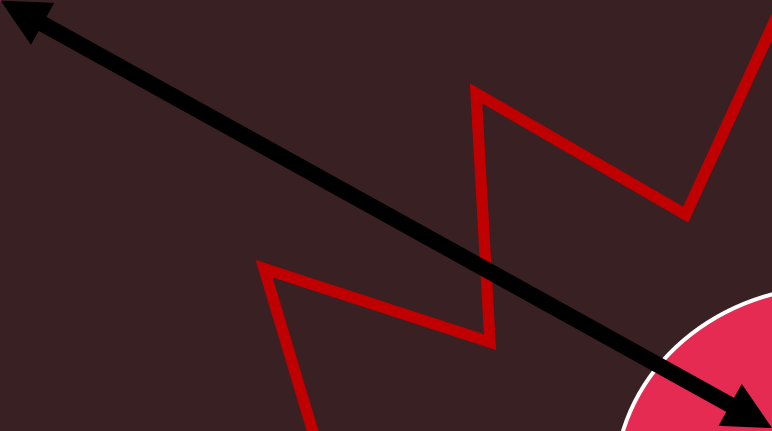
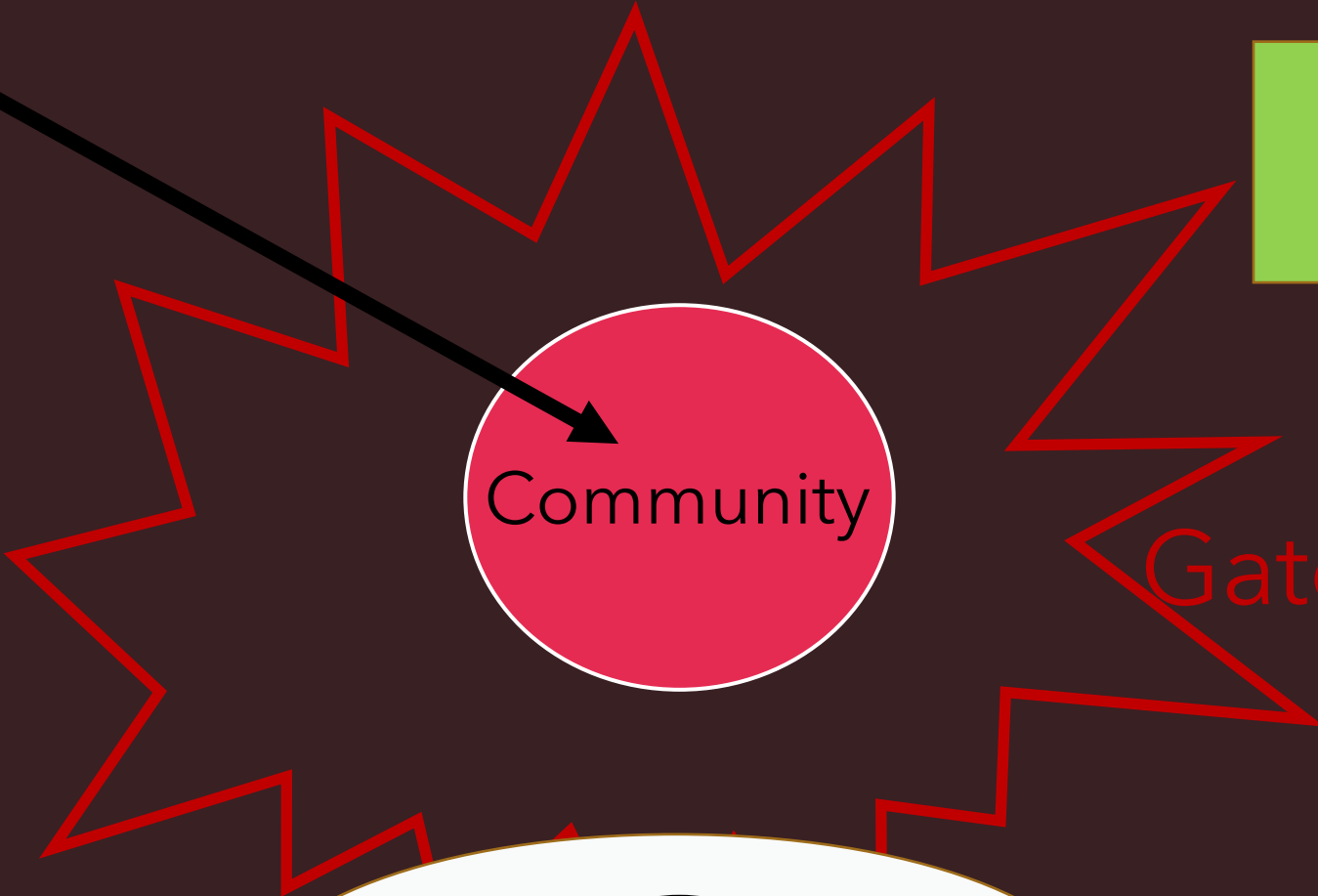
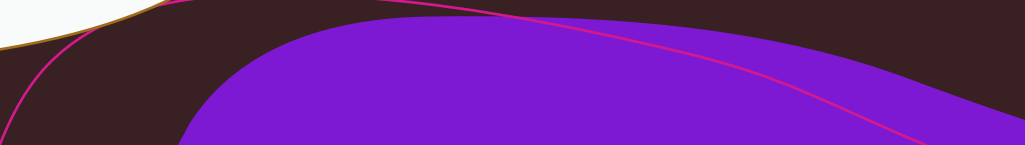
Access

Location



Pulling in

Gatekeeping





Defining Community Pt. 2

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Community Psychology

2/16/2023



Announcements



Stake

- Putting ones own resources (personal, financial, temporal, spiritual, etc) into a community.
- A persons "Investment" in the community and its success/well-being
- What folks are willing to lose and gain in the community as well as for the community (not just in a capitalistic sense)
- There is often conflict here based on what folks think is best for the community or what the most pressing issues of said community are. As well as when they don't see their expected outcomes (intent≠/≠impact)

Participation

- Participation simply refers to involvement in the community and its happenings
- often times folks stake in the community influences the way they choose to participate
- It of course is possible to participate with and in other communities without being considered a member of said group. (appreciation, solidarity, appropriation, saviorism)

Some Examples

- Attending Community events
- Engaging with the community online and in person
- Participating in actions
- Thinking about/engaging in ways to better community
- Representing the community in places where the community doesn't or cannot exist
- Giving knowledge & resources to the community
- Recording the communities history/histories
- Creating media to give the community more representation
- Expressing and participating in the culture, traditions, customs of a community.

Why community matters



Connection

Communities open channels of communication allow people with shared experiences to share those truths

Communities allow groups of people to develop deeper connections with people and thus with the world around them



Communication



Compassion

Communities allow people to share goals and engage in action/resistance more effectively.

Communities can care for and support one another like no one else can.



Commotion

Why it matters for Community Psychology (aside from the obvious)

- Extensive research on the vital importance and healing capacity of communities/social support
- Communities and community action shape our cultural, social, and political landscapes
- The way communities interact says a lot about social behaviors, needs, desires that can help psychologists develop new and much needed actions and interventions
- Communities are sites of immense potential and energy that facilitate or destroy social justice efforts.