

Participatory Action Research (PAR)

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Announcements

- ❖ Assignment 4 grading to start this weekend
- ❖ Final questions?

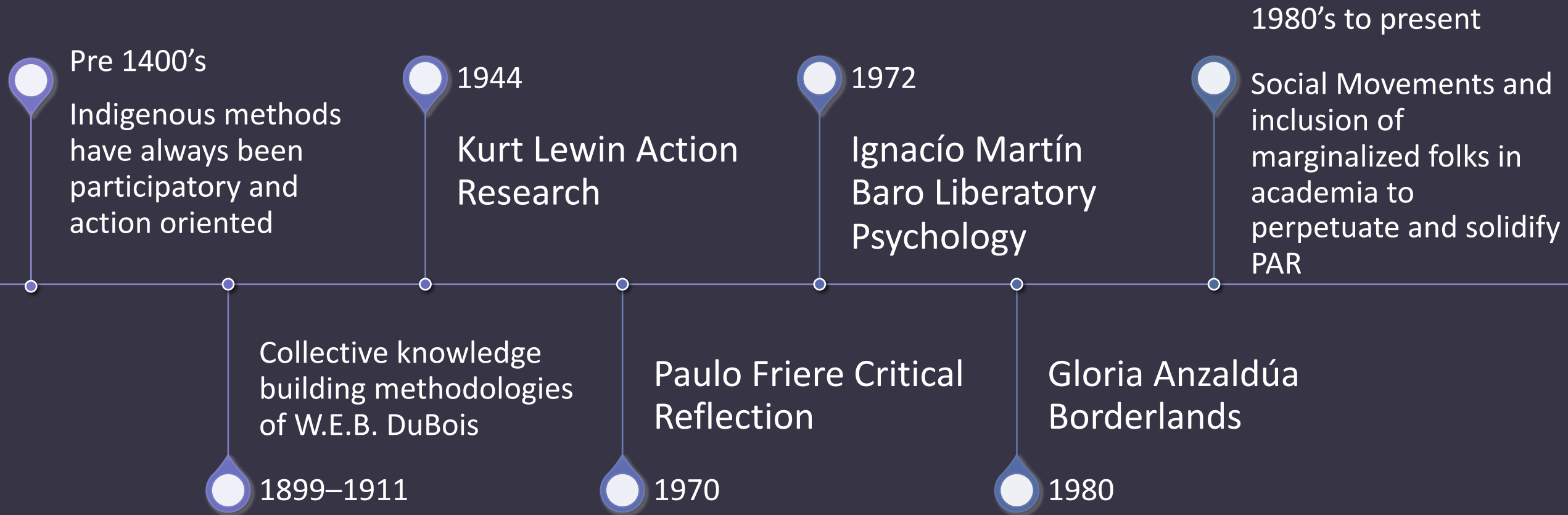
Discussion Question

Do you believe that researchers should be from the community that they are studying or is it best for researchers to be from outside? Explain

What is PAR? (Participatory Action Research)

- ❖ Follows the motto “No research about us without us.” (Participatory)
- ❖ As such it is more of an approach or methodology not one single method.
- ❖ Designed explicitly to challenge the power imbalance in research and put communities in the driver’s seat (Transformative Research)
- ❖ Community participates at EVERY step of the research process possible (community centered)
- ❖ Research MUST do more than just a published article. (Action Research)
- ❖ Uses a variety of knowledge and methods in order to do research (Mixed Methods, Art Based Methods, Technological Methods)

An Incomplete History of PAR



Practice Including Community

- ❖ RQ: What factors influence community cohesion and dissent amongst young New Yorkers across the 5 boroughs?
- ❖ Community: Youth (ages 15-24) who have lived in NY for at least 10 or more years, and self identify as “New Yorkers” from each of the 5 boroughs.
- ❖ Methods plan: 5 Mixed and 5 Intra borough focus groups and thematic analysis of transcripts
- ❖ How might you include community co-researchers within the context of this research project?
- ❖ Who might you call on to contribute to/help guide this research?

Action and Research

- With PAR we typically center the project around an issue that we want to act on or address
- However, what we and the community want must be understood both within and outside the context and boundaries of research
- How can your research further your social action goals and how can these goals inform your action plans?
- Understanding Research & Action may sometimes be at odds



Needs of PAR

Reliable funding

Challenge power, bias, and core beliefs

Simultaneous education and learning

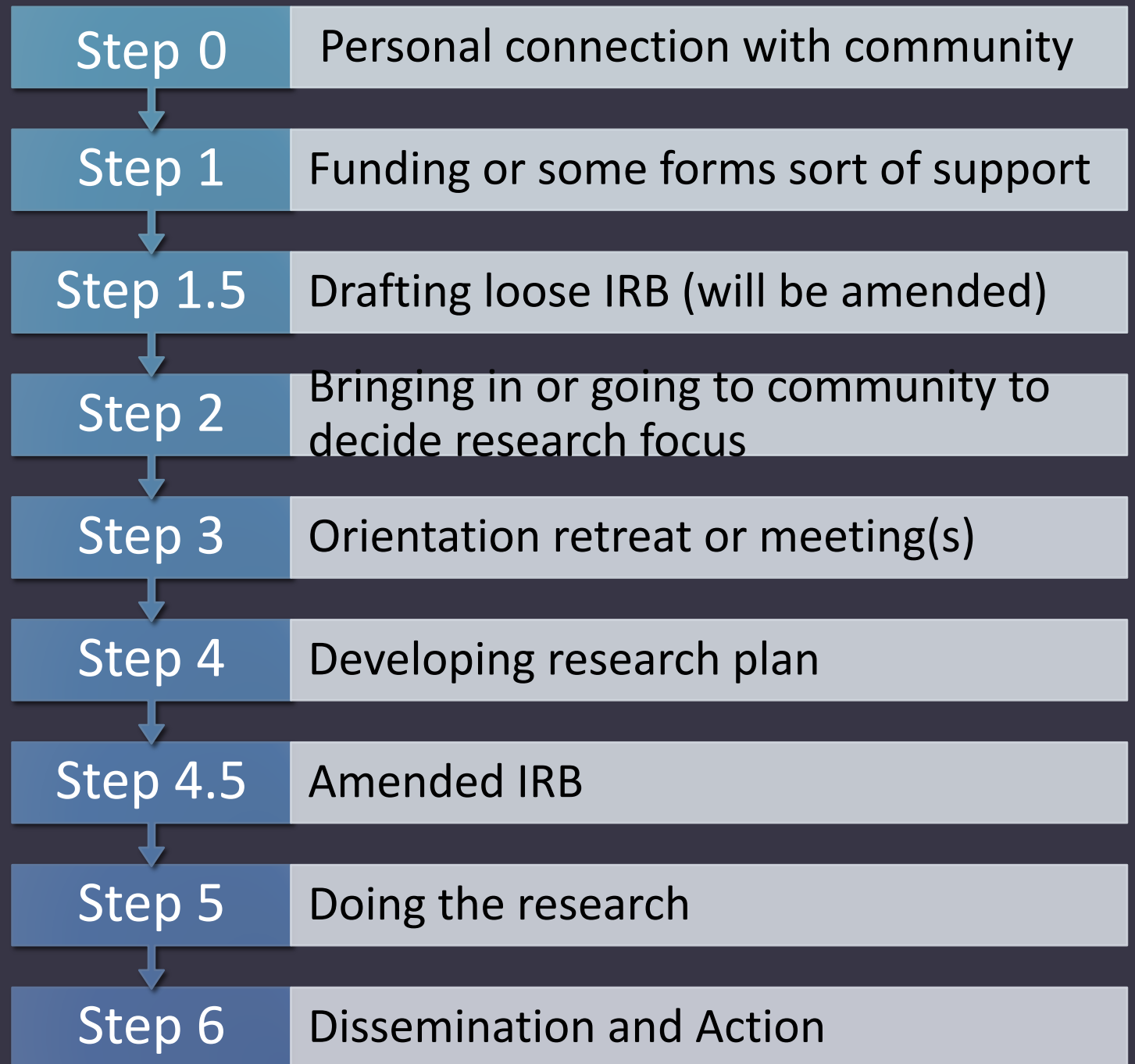
Conflict mediation

Openness and fluidity

Diversity of knowledge

Representative group

Doing PAR (from my perspective)



PAR Research Scenario

You are currently at your orientation retreat. What factors influence community cohesion and dissent amongst young New Yorkers across the 5 boroughs? You are working with co-researchers on the ethical framework when a conflict arises concerning what causes the most interborough tension. Mila (16) a Black American girl born and raised in the Bronx, believes the root of the issue is the influx of gentrifiers. She states that some boroughs resist while others welcome these folks. JP (18) a Puerto Rican man who has lived in Brooklyn for 14 years disagrees. He feels that while gentrification and gentrifiers are a problem the biggest issue is transportation and resources. He notes Manhattan receives most of the city's resources and it is much more easily accessible via public transit. Both feel that their reason should take precedence and become the focus of the research project. They are arguing constantly, and the team is unable to move forward.

First state your own opinion and your placement within the context of this issue and community. Next discuss how you might you address this conflict?

Benefits and Challenges of PAR

- ❖ Centers community completely throughout research process
- ❖ Addresses and challenges power like no other method can
- ❖ Complicates and radicalizes the research process
- ❖ Produces more meaningful action
- ❖ Speaks back to the community more authentically
- ❖ Extremely Time consuming
- ❖ Requires a lot of different resources
- ❖ Can be an IRB nightmare (depending on reviewers)
- ❖ Can be difficult for researchers to place values of the community before their own research goals
- ❖ Managing group conflict about heavy topics over a long time