








Research Partnerships on a Continuum: Community Involvement and the Role of the Academic Researcher

Increasing Community Involvement and Authority in Research

	Academic / Community Roles							
	Academic researcher 	Community stakeholders / collaborator	Academic researcher 	Community stakeholders / collaborator 	Academic researcher 	Community stakeholders / collaborator 	Academic researcher 	Community stakeholders / collaborator 
Research Phase	Expert	No role	Expert	Consultant	Co-learner	Co-learner	Consultant	Expert
Relationship Formation	No relationship present.		Typically, academic researcher reaches out to community stakeholders to initiate relationship.		Either academic researchers or community stakeholders may initiate the relationship. Both collaborators leverage their connections and resources to support the development of an appropriate research team.		Typically, community stakeholders reach out to academic researcher to initiate relationship. Academic researcher assists community partners in leveraging university resources, including additional expertise if needed.	
Issue Selection	Academic researcher identifies an issue of academic and perceived social relevance.		Academic researcher involves community stakeholders in identifying an issue of social relevance within an area of academic relevance predefined by the researcher.		Academic researcher and community stakeholders work together to identify an issue of equal relevance to both.		Community stakeholders identify a high priority issue relevant to their lived experience. Academic researcher assists community partners in leveraging university resources, including additional/alternate academic expertise if needed.	
Defining the Research Question	Academic Researcher defines a research question that has academic relevance.		Academic researcher defines a research question with some level of community involvement.		Research question developed collaboratively via consensus.		Community stakeholders define a research question.	
Research Design	Academic researcher develops research design.		Academic researcher develops research design with some input from community stakeholders. Community collaborator may expand design options through leveraging existing community connections and resources.		Academic researchers and community stakeholders co-develop research design and leverage their connections and resources to support the project and one another.		Community stakeholders develop research design with assistance from academic researchers to ensure scientific rigor and technical feasibility. Academic researcher assists community partners in leveraging university resources, including additional expertise if needed.	
Data collection	Data collected by academic researcher and/or a team of university affiliates.		Academic researcher and/or team of university affiliates, with some degree of community input or involvement. Community stakeholders may or may not have full access to data.		Academic researchers and community collaborators both participate in the data collection process and leverage relevant networks and resources as needed. Both partners have equal access to data.		Community stakeholders collect data with some level of involvement / technical assistance from academic researcher. Researcher leverages university resources as needed. Community retains full rights to data.	
Data Analysis & Interpretation	Conducted by academic researcher and/or a team of university affiliates.		Conducted by academic research and/or team of university affiliates with some community involvement. Community stakeholders may or may not have full access to data.		Conducted collaboratively with each partner contributing relevant expertise. Both partners have equal access to data.		Conducted by community stakeholders with some degree of academic researcher involvement. Researcher leverages university resources as needed, including additional academic expertise.	
Dissemination of Findings	Academic peer-reviewed journals and conferences.		Academic researcher defines and serves as primary author for publications or other communications materials and develops dissemination plan. Community stakeholders may review publications/materials, serve as co-authors, and/or have a role in dissemination.		Academic researchers and community stakeholders co-create dissemination plan and co-define and co-write all publications and materials.		Community stakeholders define and serve as primary author(s) for publications or other communications materials and develop dissemination plan. Academic researchers may review publications/materials, serve as co-authors, and/or have a role in dissemination.	
Taking Action	None. Stakeholder communities apply research and take action on their own.		Academic researcher defines action goals with some input from community stakeholders, who may also be involved in implementation.		Academic researchers and community stakeholders co-create and implement an action agenda.		Community stakeholders define and implement action plan based on advocacy strategies. Academic researcher provides data and leverages university resources to assist.	