



Community Psychology in Global Perspective
Interculture Well-Being Social Change

Call for Papers: Structural Violence and Community-based Research and Action

Important Dates

January 15, 2016: Deadline for paper submission

Editors

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Theme of the Special Issue

Structural violence refers to the production and maintenance of social inequality and oppression. The concept signifies the mechanisms through which social systems produce and normalize exclusion and marginalization along lines of race, class, gender, ethnicity, nationality, and other invidious categories (Galtung, 1969; Farmer, 1996; Martin-Baró, 1994; Scheper-Hughes, 2006). Structural violence erases social and political origins of problems, instead placing the blame on struggling individuals and communities. Examples include racism, sexism, poverty, hunger, and health disparities. Structural violence is intricately tied to symbolic or cultural violence, that is, systematic assaults on the human dignity and self-worth of individuals and communities. This kind of violence operates through aspects of the symbolic sphere such as culture, language, ideology, and empirical science to legitimize direct violence (Bourdieu, 1991; Galtung, 1990). Structural and symbolic violence systematically violate individual, economic, social, and cultural rights through exploitation, abuse, and epistemic violence built into institutional, cultural, and research practices.

Conceptions of structural violence can challenge community-based praxis to incorporate sophisticated analyses of injustice. The special issue on *Structural Violence and Community-based Research and Action* explores these possibilities through critical interrogations of diverse forms of structural and symbolic violence. We invite papers that draw on diverse theoretical and methodological approaches to offer theoretical, empirical, and/or practice-based insights into structural violence and how it operates and/or is performed in communities. In particular, we seek contributions that move beyond positivist and postpositivist understandings of “scientific” research, to excavate the manifold ways in which structural violence is deeply ingrained in our society including the academy. We encourage papers from scholars, educators, practitioners, and activists engaging with and/or

interrogating community-based action and research through the lens of structural violence. We seek contributions, in particular from the global south, which contribute to a critical, international activist scholarship on community-based research and practice.

The following list presents some illustrative topics for possible contributions:

- Study of both individual experiences and the macrosocial matrix in which experiences are configured.
- Illustration of mechanisms through which macrosocial forces translate into individual/everyday suffering.
- Theoretical and empirical examination of how intersecting social axes are implicated in forms of social injustice.
- Study of contexts and social formations that produce violence.
- Interventions (theory and praxis) informed by understandings of structural violence.
- Innovative possibilities for strategies of survival and social transformation.
- Critique of and/or new directions in community psychology and community-based research.

Details

Submitted papers should contain original and unpublished work and must be written in English. For non-native speakers, editing of the manuscript by a competent English-speaking editor is requested.

Papers are due **January 15, 2016**. Early submissions are welcome.

All submitted papers will undergo the journal's regular peer review process.

Papers must be prepared in full accord with the journal's [Author guidelines](#) and be submitted through the journal portal (<http://siba-ese.unisalento.it/index.php/cpgp/index>).

Inquiries regarding topic or scope for the special issue can be sent to Urmitapa Dutta at urmitapa_dutta@uml.edu.

Papers unrelated to the theme of the special issue may be submitted at any time through the [journal's online submission system](#) and will be considered for publication in *Community Psychology In Global Perspective* as regular articles. Inquiries regarding the journal's aim, scope, and policy can be sent to terri.mannarini@unisalento.it