CAAP/DCED Annual Community Action Action Symposium 2018

Opening Keynote: Race and Poverty in a Time of Othering

PRESENTER:
john a. powell

DATE:
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POVERTY

- Biggest Challenge to helping people in poverty
- It is not getting them stuff
- It is recognizing that they are people
- Recognizing that they belong
- To see them
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE GET FROM SOCIETY?

- It is not food
- It is not freedom
- It is membership
- It is to fully belong
WHO IS IN THE CIRCLE OF HUMAN CONCERN?
INCREASE IN DIVERSITY

INCREASE IN ANXIETY

LOOK TO LEADERSHIP TO SET META-NARRATIVE THAT...

BREAK COMMUNITIES
Fear
Anger
Othering

washington, d.c.

BRIDGE

Belonging
Empathy
Inclusion

INCREASE IN DIVERSITY

does anxiety
**BONDING**
Social ties that link people together with others who are primarily like them along some key dimension. These are genuinely easier to build than bridging social capital.

**BRIDGING**
Social ties that link people together with others across a cleavage that typically divides society.

**BREAKING**
Social ties among an exclusive group who explicitly push away from other groups who are seen as dangerous or a threat.
LOOK TO LEADERSHIP TO SET META-NARRATIVE THAT...

1. BRIDGE COMMUNITIES
   - EMPATHY
   - INCLUSION
   - BELONGING

2. BREAK COMMUNITIES
   - FEAR
   - ANGER
   - OTHERING
PREPARED STATEMENT

Look at how much African-American communities have suffered under Democratic Control. To those hurting, I say: what do you have to lose by trying something new?

ACTUAL STATEMENT

You’re living in your poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs, 58 percent of your (black) youth is unemployed — what the hell do you have to lose?
How does who you are shape what you know and think about the world?
Who do you call in an emergency?

Does it matter whether you are

- White?
- Latinx?
- Female?
- Living life in the U.S. undocumented?
People’s conscious values and beliefs are only part of how they process information and make decisions. Many biases affecting behavior towards others reside in the unconscious mind.
In other words, people who consciously value racial or other forms of equality can act and make decisions based on biases without even being aware that they have any biases at all.

Implicit/unconscious bias is when a person’s actions are motivated by unconscious processes.
HOW IMPLICIT/UNCONSCIOUS BIAS LEADS TO DISCRIMINATION

- When one holds a negative stereotype about a group and meets someone who fits the stereotype s/he may discriminate against that individual.
- It occurs even among persons who are not consciously prejudiced.
Our environment affects our unconscious networks

Priming activates mental associations
- Telling someone a scary story activates a frame of fear

Claude Steele’s “stereotype threat”:
- For example, tell students about to take a test that Asian students tend to do better than whites, and the whites will perform significantly worse than if they had not been primed to think of themselves as less capable than Asians.

Individuation: focus on the individual attributes of specific person versus categorization or perceiving person through filter of their social group

Source: Burgess, Van Ryn, Dovidio, and Saha, J Gen Intern Med (2007); Williams, 2012
STEREOTYPE CONTENT MODEL

- Competence
  - Low
  - High

- Warmth
  - Low
  - High

- Esteemed in-group
- Pithed out-group
- Envied out-group
- Despised out-group
SOCIAL COGNITION: WARMTH AND COMPETENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warmth</th>
<th>Competence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Esteemed: Your own group, who you identify with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Envied: Competent, but don’t really like them: Asians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Despised: Blacks, Undocumented immigrants, Poor people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pity: women, elderly, disabled</td>
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</table>
AMARTYA SEN

- Nobel economist from India
- Like you; he asked what is the cause of famine?
- It is not a lack of food but a lack of an effective democracy where people count.
The problem of “Othering” is the problem of the 21st century.
We define othering as a set of processes, structures, and dynamics that engender marginality and persistent inequality across any of the full range of human differences. Othering and marginality can occur on a group basis or at the individual level.
Dimensions include but are not limited to, sex, religion, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, and skin tone.
What account for America weak and punitive support for people in poverty?

- Our ideologue of individualism
- Inability to see work of structure
- Story we live by
- The racial other
The term belonging reflects an objective position as well as the inter-subjective nature of group-based identities. In that respect, the process of othering and belonging are deeply relational and important in forming group identities and the self.
Many studies show that belonging and group identity impacts performance. There is a direct correlation between students belonging and doubts about their ability to perform well in academic settings. This doubt creates an incentive to drop out of school, thus continually perpetuating the cycle of “othering” in the nation’s collegiate system.
Our social networks impact our health and well-being.

- A person’s social network is a key predictor in whether an individual will become a victim of a gun homicide, even more so than race, age, gender, poverty, or gang affiliation.
- Individuals who lack social networks tend to suffer higher rates of morbidity and mortality, as well as infection, depression and cognitive decline.
- Social disconnectedness is associated with worse physical health, regardless of whether it prompts feelings of loneliness or perceived lack of social support.
Our lives are made up of many different **networks**. Social networks; business and professional networks; community networks; and opportunity networks.
MOBILITY

- Where you live
- Who you are
We are all situated within structures but not evenly.

These structures interact in ways that produce a differential in outcomes.
- Structures and policies are not neutral
- They unevenly distribute benefits and burdens to different groups differently
- Institutions can operate jointly to produce racialized outcomes
Neighborhoods & access to opportunity

• Five decades of research indicate that your environment has a profound impact on your access to opportunity and likelihood of success
• High poverty areas with poor employment, underperforming schools, distressed housing, and public health/safety risks depress life outcomes
  • A system of disadvantage
  • Many manifestations: urban, rural, suburban
• People of color are far more likely to live in opportunity: deprived neighborhoods and communities
Spatial, racial, and opportunity segregation impact a number of life opportunities.

- Health
- School segregation
- Educational achievement
- Exposure to crime; arrest
- Transportation limitations and other inequitable public services
- Job segregation
- Racial stigma and other psychological issues
- Community power and individual assets
THE IMPACT OF CONCENTRATED FORECLOSURES IN A NEIGHBORHOOD

- Foreclosures pull wealth/equity and assets out of the neighborhood
- Widespread displacement of renters, homeowners which rips the neighborhood’s social fabric and creates instability for school age children
- The growth of vacant property encourages crime, disinvestment and public safety risks
- Challenges which eventually ensnare all residents (even those
• Reduces IQ points of students by 4 points, equivalent to one year of school (Sampson 2007)

• Generates unhealthy levels of stress hormones in children, which impairs their neural development
• Correlates with children having levels of lead in their blood 9 times above the average; high levels of lead linked to ADD and irreversible loss of cognitive functioning

• Links to higher levels of violent offending among juveniles

• Is highly correlated with childhood aggression and social maladjustment
A TALE OF HIGH AND LOW OPPORTUNITY

**Low Opportunity**
- Less than 25% of students in Detroit finish high school
- More than 60% of the men will spend time in jail
- There may soon be no bus service in some areas
- It is difficult to attract jobs or private capital
- Not safe; very few parks
- Difficult to get fresh food

**High Opportunity**
- The year my step daughter finished high school, 100% of the students graduated and 100% went to college
- Most will not even drive by a jail
- Free bus service
- Relatively easy to attract capital
- Very safe; great parks
- Easy to get fresh food
• Adopt strategies that open up access to levers of opportunity for marginalized individuals, families, and communities
  - Bring opportunities to opportunity-deprived areas

• Connect people to existing opportunities throughout the metropolitan region

• Targeted Universalism
Structural inequity produces consistently different outcomes for different communities

Targeted universalism responds with universal goals and targeted solutions

VS.
Universal programs alone are not truly universal.
- Often based on a non-universal standard.
- Example: social security. Able-bodied white males working outside the home full-time for pay.

Targeted programs alone are not desirable because they appear to show favoritism toward a certain group, thus stigmatizing them.

Targeted universalism recognizes racial disparities, while acknowledging their presence within a larger inequitable, institutional framework. Set a benchmark for all.
An **intervention strategy**.

- Repairs social cleavages not just distribution.

A **communications strategy**.

- Employs strategic communications regarding universal goals and targeted approaches to inform the allocation of resources and policy approaches.
This strategic framework...

- Starts with identifying the universal goals for all, yet the current position of whites should not be normalized in the system whereby becoming the universal goal for all.

- Set a universal benchmark/goal not dependent on the dominant group. As we move all to universal goal, disparities also addressed. This is not simple distributive. Should support the identification of specific obstacles in particular geographies that limit certain populations from reaching those goals.

- Should identify particular barriers and enhancement for target group.

- Situate targeted group as canary in mine if possible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Analysis</th>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Intervention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Individuals sign loan documents that they don’t understand</td>
<td>Borrower education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix the Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>A particular bank won’t make loans in historically red-lined neighborhoods</td>
<td>Organize a local, regional or state action, file a lawsuit, etc. to force that particular bank to change its lending practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix the institution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural</td>
<td>All of the major leaders in the area have stopped giving loans or will only give sub-prime loans in historically red-lined neighborhoods</td>
<td>Collaborate with national alliances working to increase and enforce fair lending practices, community reinvestment act, etc. through community organizing and advocacy at the state and national level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix the system</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Loans are no longer held by local or even national banks, but are owned by foreign governments</td>
<td>Work with national and transnational organizations to increase regulation of multinational corporations, and reduce regulation of transnational population migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix the global system</td>
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The city of Austin, Texas, Department of Parks and Recreation developed a TU plan designed to improve recreational services and delivery by the department.

- They set as a universal goal that every resident should live within ¼ to ½ mile of a city park.
- An assessment revealed severe gaps for particular communities.
WHAT IS "RACE?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOYzr3mupbk
BRIDGING CONVERSATION PRACTICE

- Shared suffering
- Empathy space
- Bridging practices
  - We are more likely to engage in breaking
  - We have structure and culture that break
US PARTNERSHIP ON MOBILITY FROM POVERTY
Closing thoughts & remarks
For more information, visit:
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