

## Community Engaged Research: Everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

The goal of this session is to advance and support social workers and allied professionals to be leaders in the field of HIV/AIDS by preparing them to collaborate with university academics to conduct community-engaged research.



3.5 CE



**DATE**  
May 24, 2023



**TIME**  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM



[WWW.PASWHA.ORG](http://WWW.PASWHA.ORG)



**AMY SMOYER, MSW, PHD**

Southern Connecticut State University



**National Conference  
on Social Work and HIV/AIDS**

Hosted by the Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS (PASWHA)  
Managed by Collaborative Solutions, Inc.

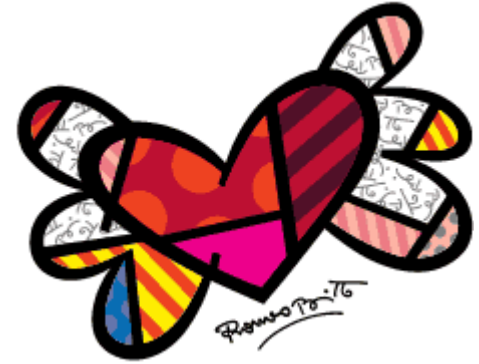


**NADINE RUFF, BSW, MSW**

A Place to Nourish your Health  
( APNH )



# Agenda



8:00 – 8:30: Introductions

*Train the trainer: Thoughts on pre-session survey.*

8:30 – 9:30: Part I: Overview of the Research Process

9:30 – 9:45: Break

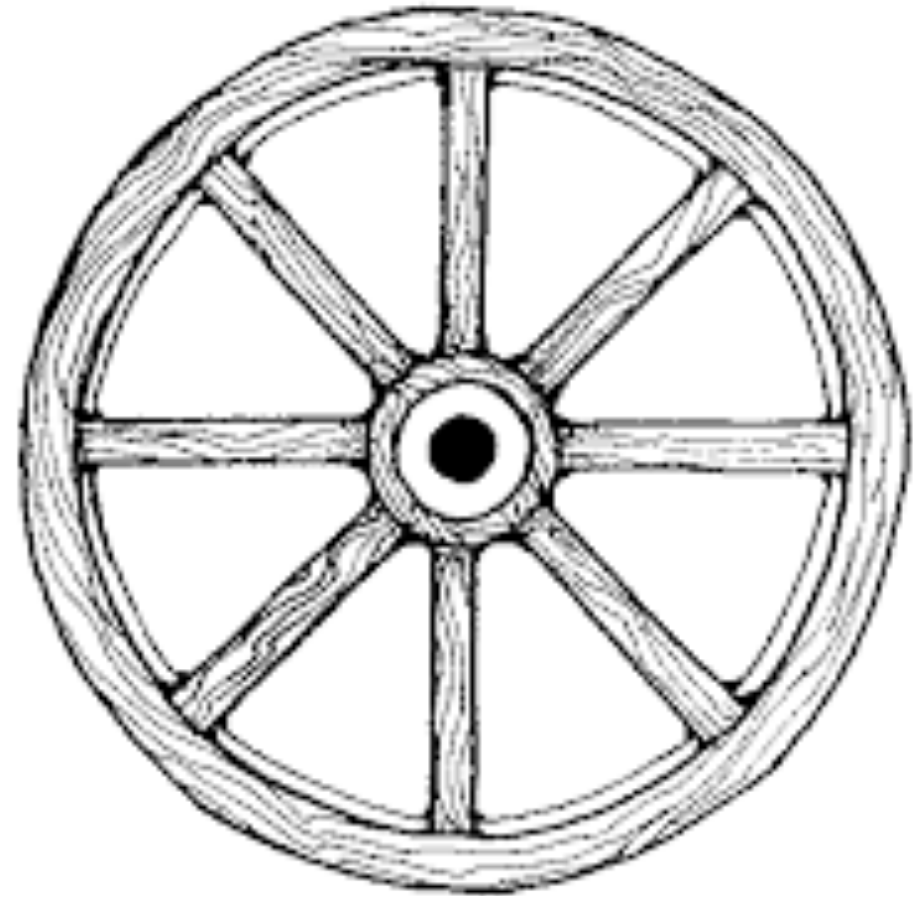
9:45 – 10:30: Part II: Community Engaged Research: Describe, Critique & Analyze

10:30 – 10:45: Break

10:45 – 11:45: Part III: Examples from our practice

- Divinely You
- SHAWN

# Wagon Wheel



Part I:  
Overview of the  
Research  
Process



What is science?

## Ways of Knowing

- **Values**
  - **Intuition**
  - **Experience**
  - **Authority**
  - **Science**
- **Overgeneralization**
  - **Select Observation**
  - **Illogical Reasoning**
  - **Resistanceto Change**
  - **Adherence to Authority**

- 
- **Systematic**
  - **Replicate-able**
  - **Objective**
  - **Critiqued**
  - **Shared**

Social Workers  
Consume  
Science:  
Evidence-  
Based Practice



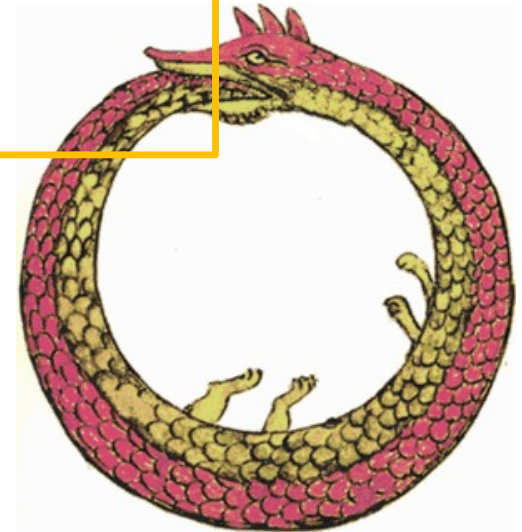
Social Workers  
Construct  
Science:  
Community  
based research



*Turn & Talk!*

# The Research Process

1. Select a Research Topic
2. Identify a Research Question
3. Find Existing Research
4. Write the Literature Review
5. Design Research
6. Collect Data
7. Analyze Data
8. Report Results
9. Conclusion & Limitations





Nadine's Question:  
What is the impact  
of **lived experiences**  
on the **psychosocial**  
**outcomes**  
of **transgender**  
**women of color**?

Describe the lived experience of transgender women of color.

*Strengths Based  
Narrative Theory*

What strengths are described in these stories?

How to the coping mechanisms and skills practiced during transition shape women's subsequent lives?

Amy's Question:  
What is the impact  
of incarceration  
on the HIV risk  
behaviors  
of cisgender  
women?

What is women's lived experience of incarceration?

Feminist Theory

What are women's experiences with  
food and eating during incarceration?

What are women's toilet habits and  
behaviors during incarceration?

What are  
YOUR  
questions?

Mini Design  
Project



**1. What topics/issues related to your social practice are you most interested in?**

**2. Write a research question as a group.**

- What is the group curious about?
- What does the group want to know?
- What gaps in knowledge exist?

**3. Develop a Research Blueprint**


- **Who do you want to talk to?** How would you find people with knowledge related to your question?
- **What would you ask them?** Draft a couple of questions.
- **Who would be interested in learning the results of your inquiry?** How would you get that information to them?

# Online Resources:

## Decarlo Book: Scientific Inquiry in Social Work (2018)

### Handout

open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/591



### Scientific Inquiry in Social Work

(9 reviews)

★★★★★

Matthew DeCarlo, Radford University

Copyright Year: 2018

ISBN 13: 9781975033729


Publisher: [Open Social Work Education](#)

Language: English

#### Formats Available

- ONLINE
- PDF
- EBOOK
- HARDCOPY
- XML

#### Conditions of Use

 [Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike](#)  
CC BY-NC-SA

#### Table of Contents

- Chapter 1: Introduction to research
- Chapter 2: Beginning a research project
- Chapter 3: Reading and evaluating literature
- Chapter 4: Conducting a literature review
- Chapter 5: Ethics in social work research
- Chapter 6: Linking methods with theory
- Chapter 7: Design and causality
- Chapter 8: Creating and refining a research question
- Chapter 9: Defining and measuring concepts
- Chapter 10: Sampling
- Chapter 11: Survey research
- Chapter 12: Experimental design
- Chapter 13: Interviews and focus groups
- Chapter 14: Unobtrusive research: Qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Chapter 15: Real-world research: Evaluation, single-subjects, and action research
- Chapter 16: Reporting and reading research

#### Ancillary Material

- [Open Social Work Education](#)


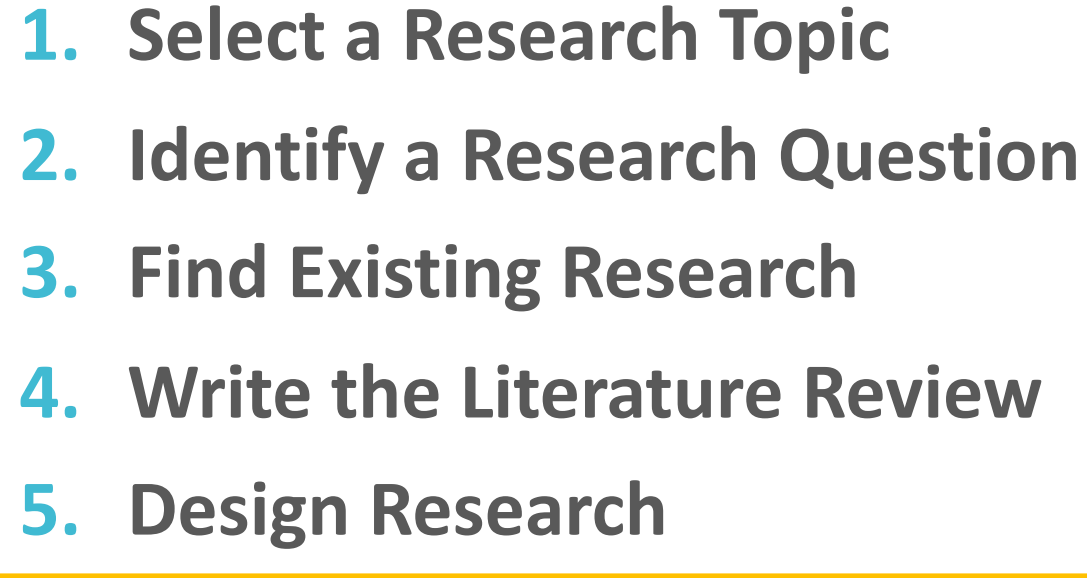
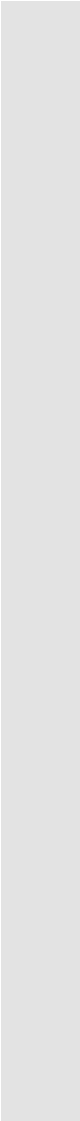
15 Minute  
Break!



Part II:  
Community  
Engaged  
Research  
*Describe*  
*Critique*  
*Analyze*



**POWER.**

- 
- 
- 
- 1. Select a Research Topic**
  - 2. Identify a Research Question**
  - 3. Find Existing Research**
  - 4. Write the Literature Review**
  - 5. Design Research**
  - 6. Collect Data**
  - 7. Analyze Data**
  - 8. Report Results**
  - 9. Conclusion & Limitations**

# Definitions

## Handout

- Traditional Research Approach
- Community-placed research
- Community engaged research
- Community based participatory research
- Community informed – community involved – community directed
- **Community-Academic = False Binary**

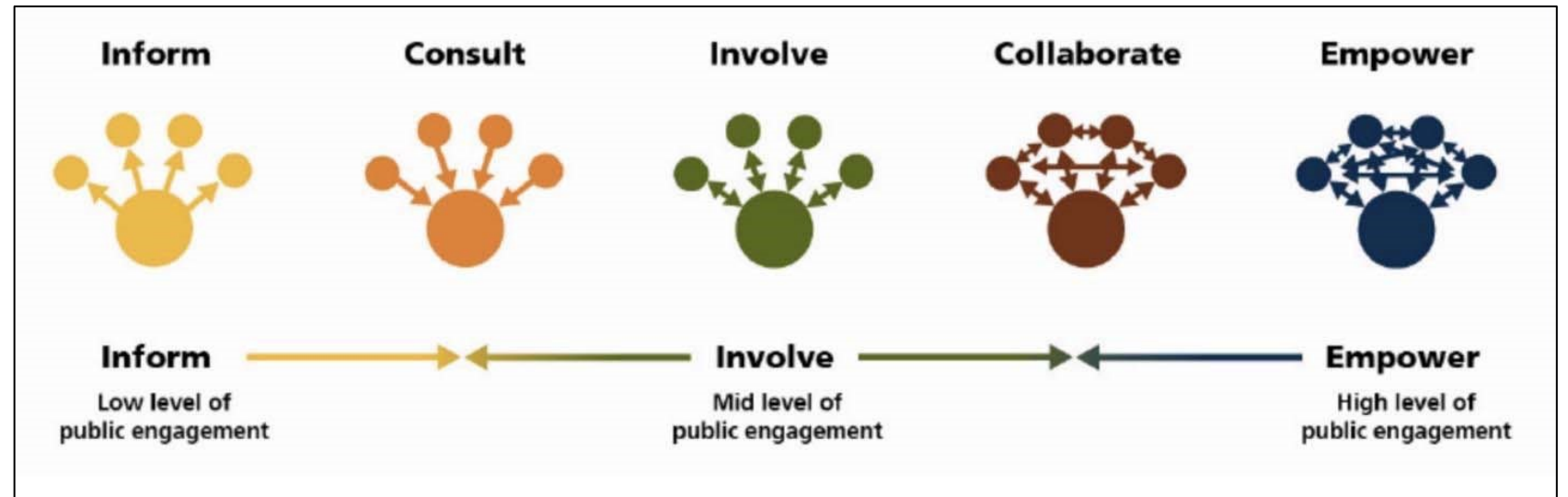


### **Group Reading**

Bobrow-Williams, S. (2022). The case for funding community-based participatory research.



# Developing Meaningful Community – Academic Partnerships

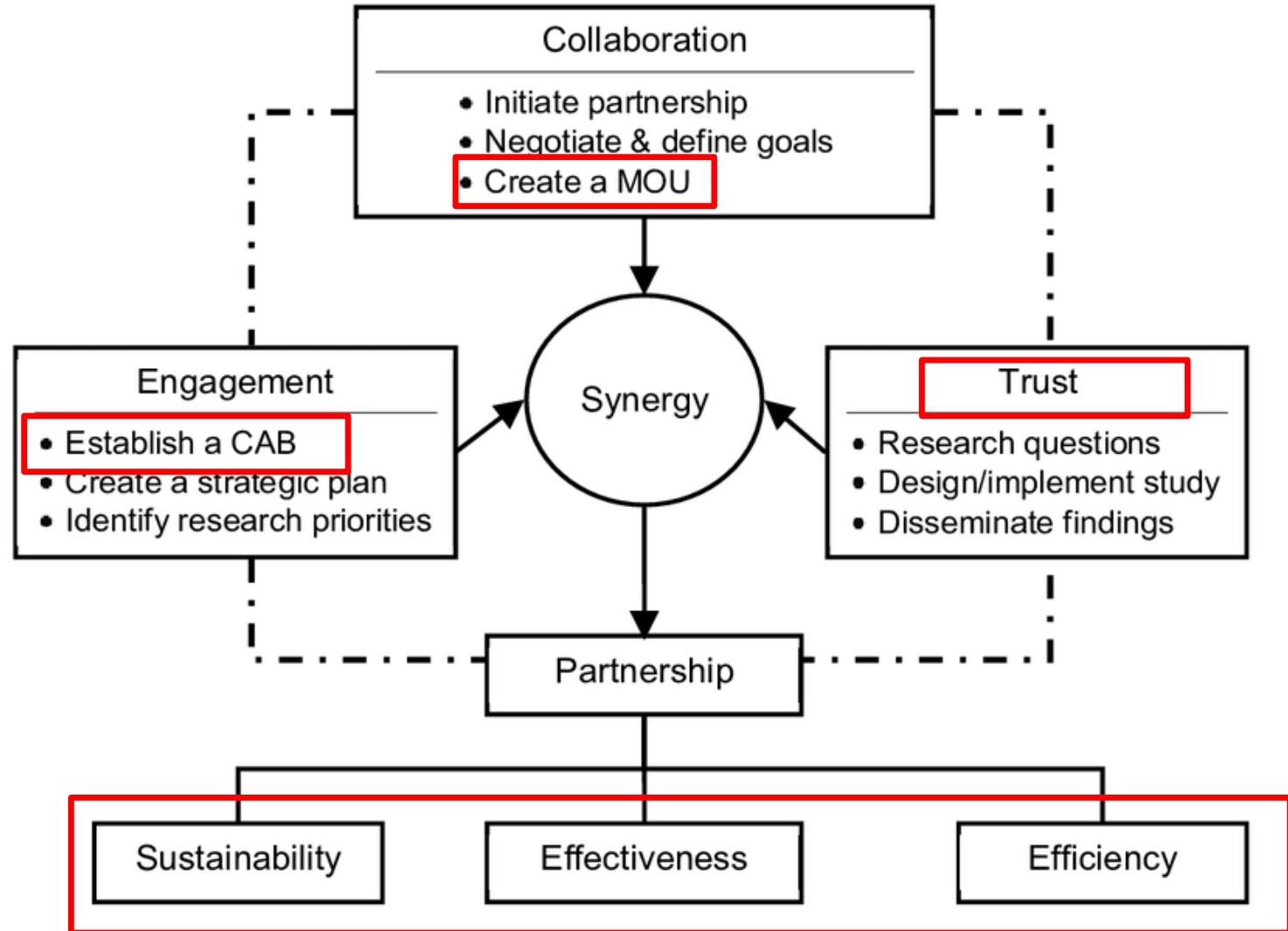




Handout

Turin TC, Chowdhury N, Haque S, *et al.* Meaningful and deep community engagement efforts for pragmatic research and beyond: engaging with an immigrant/racialised community on equitable access to care. *BMJ Global Health* 2021;**6**:e006370.

# Developing Community – Academic Partnerships



Brush, B. L., Baiardi, J. M., & Lapidés, S. (2011). Moving toward synergy: Lessons learned in developing and sustaining community–academic partnerships. *Progress in community health partnerships: research, education, and action*, 5(1), 27.

# MOU to Advance Partnership

## Handout

# Questions to Consider

University of Wisconsin-Madison: <https://ictr.wisc.edu/cche-research-agreement/>

- **Leadership roles**
  - Who is this agreement between? Who are your partners?
  - Are the roles and responsibilities of each partner clear? Is everyone comfortable with these?
  - Who is the director of this project? Are there multiple leaders? If so, how do their responsibilities differ and/or overlap?
- **Project Direction**
  - What are the scope and goals of the project?
  - What is the duration (start and end time) of the project?
- **Payments**
  - What type(s) of payment will occur?
  - How/Will partners be reimbursed for expenses?
  - What process will allow partners to submit invoices appropriately?
- **Dissemination of partnership findings, data collection, ownership, storage and use**
  - Are confidentiality agreements needed?
  - Will either/both partner wish to disseminate/publish findings?
  - How will project data be stored, and who will have access to use this data?

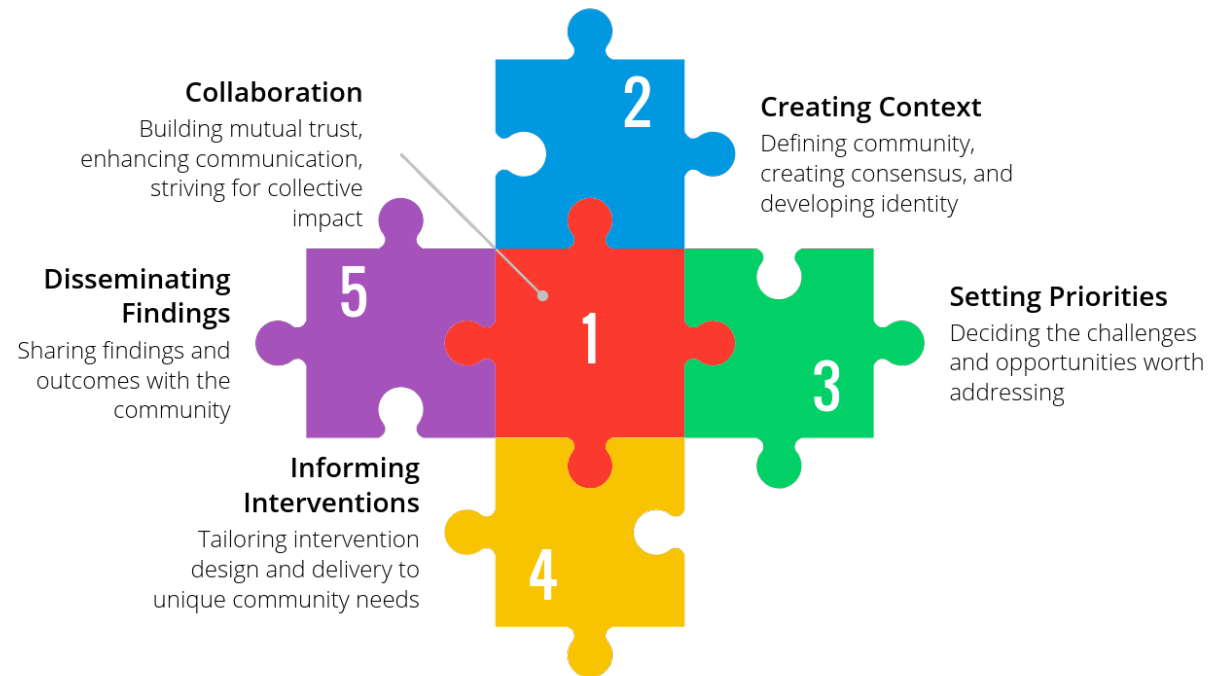
CAB?



## Intentionality & Language

- Community Advisory Board - advice
- Steering Committee – strategic direction & governance

## Community Advisory Board Responsibilities



# Trust



**Nurse Eunice Rivers Laurie (1899–1986) is pictured here with two US government physicians in an undated photo taken in Macon County, Ala.**  
<https://www.bet.com/article/5b800q/eunice-rivers-harvard-audio-interview>

Community  
Engaged  
Research:

Costs & Benefits  
for Your  
Organization



nimhd.nih.gov/programs/extramural/community-based-participatory.html


U.S. Department of Health & Human Services » NIH » National Institutes of Health »

**NIH** National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

About Programs Funding Opportunities News and

What can we help you find?

Home > Programs > Extramural Research > Community-Based Participatory Research Program (CBPR)



**Community-Based Participatory Research Program (CBPR)**


- Program Description
- Goals

COVID-19 Information and Resources


Extramural Research

Research Interest Areas

community-based-participatory-research/



Home About Us Goals Programs News Reports Contact Us



**COMMUNITY BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH**


SRBWI engages participatory research to lift up black women and young women's voices, leveraging and expanding their collective power. Research partners include:

morgridge.wisc.edu/faculty-and-staff-get-connected/community-based-research/

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Morgridge Center for Public Service**  
Bridging Campus and Community Through Service and Learning

Home About Students Faculty & Staff Community Events News



**Need a Community Perspective? It's In The CARDS®!**

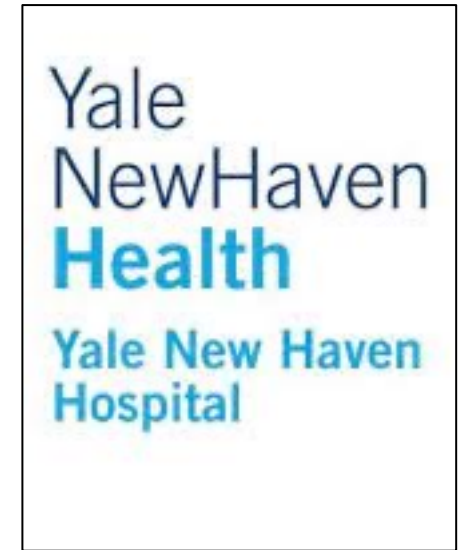
Community Advisors on Research Design and Strategies (CARDS)® is an innovative community engagement service developed by the Wisconsin Network for Research Support.

Co-Directors:  
Beth Kaiser, PhD, RN and Gay Thomas, MA  
Ethel M. Givens Community Center (Deborah Givens)

Home / Get Connected / Community-based Research

**Community-based Research**

Community-based Research (CBR) can go by many names, including community-based action research, and community-engaged research. At its core, Community-based Research involves community members to address a community-identified question, with the goal of producing social justice. In this context, 'community' may refer to a specific organization, geographic area, or common goal.



\$\$\$ Research Funding



15 Minute  
Break!



Part III:  
Examples



# Understanding the Lived Experience of Transgender Women of Color: A Photovoice Project

Nadine Ruff, BSW, MSW



Embed PlumX Metrics



# Hope, Courage, and Resilience in the Lives of Transgender Women of Color

Citation Data: Qualitative Report, ISSN: 2160-3715, Vol: 24, Issue: 8, Page: 1990-2008  
 Publication Year: 2019

9 Citations | 2,173 Usage | 35 Captures | 97 Social Media

Metric Options:  Counts  1 Year  3 Year

- Home
- Overview
- Highlights
- Twitter

Metrics Details	
<b>CITATIONS</b>	9
Citation Indexes	9
Scopus	9
<b>USAGE</b>	2,173
Downloads	1,647
Digital Commons	1,647
Abstract Views	526
Digital Commons	526
<b>CAPTURES</b>	35
Readers	35
Mendeley	35
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b>	97
Shares, Likes & Comments	89
Facebook	89
Tweets	8
Twitter	8

## Most Recent Tweet

See all tweets

**Kathleen Roe** @KathleenMRoe · Follow

What an important contribution at exactly the right time! Another lens for seeing what's in front of us: hope, courage, resilience! #healthpromotion

**Jean M Breny, PhD** @JeanMBreny  
 So proud to have been a part of this work! Sharing during #LGBTQpride month! Hope, Courage, and Resilience in the Lives of Transgender Women of Color nsuworks.nova.edu/tqr/vol24/iss8... @nadineruff60

11:12 AM · Jun 26, 2020

2 ❤️ Reply Copy link

Read more on Twitter

## Article Description

There is a lack of qualitative and strengths-based knowledge about the lived experience of transgender women of color in the US. To address this research gap, a Photovoice project was undertaken with five transgender women living in a small urban area. Thematic analysis of the participants' discussion of their photographs identified three major themes: Hope, courage, and resilience. Analysis suggests a framework for understanding these women's lived experiences and the psychosocial tools that they use to negotiate their daily lives and persevere in the face of interpersonal and structural oppression.

## Bibliographic Details

**DOI:** [10.46743/2160-3715/2019.3729](https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2019.3729)  
**REPOSITORY URL:**  
<https://nsuworks.nova.edu/tqr/vol24/iss8/11>;  
<https://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3729&context=tqr>  
**URL ID:** <http://www.scopus.com/inward/record.url?partnerID=HzOxMe3b&scp=85090441665&origin=inwa>;  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2019.3729>;



# S.H.A.W.N.

Stop HIV /AIDS Women's Network

NIDA/NIH 1R15DA056285-01, (PI Smoyer, Amy B.) Project Title: **Impact of COVID-19 Criminal-Legal Practices on HIV Risk among Women Who Use Drugs: A Multi-Methods Qualitative Exploration**, 05/01/2022 – 04/30/2025



# The NIH R15 Mechanism

## National Institute of Health R15

*The R15 "Supports small-scale research projects at educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists but that have not been major recipients of NIH support (less than \$6M/year). The goals of the R15 are to:*

- *support meritorious research,*
- *expose students to research, and*
- *strengthen the research environment of the institution.*



Shawn Lang

This project is inspired and informed by the peer-based activism of HIV/AIDS community organizer Shawn Lang (1956-2021).

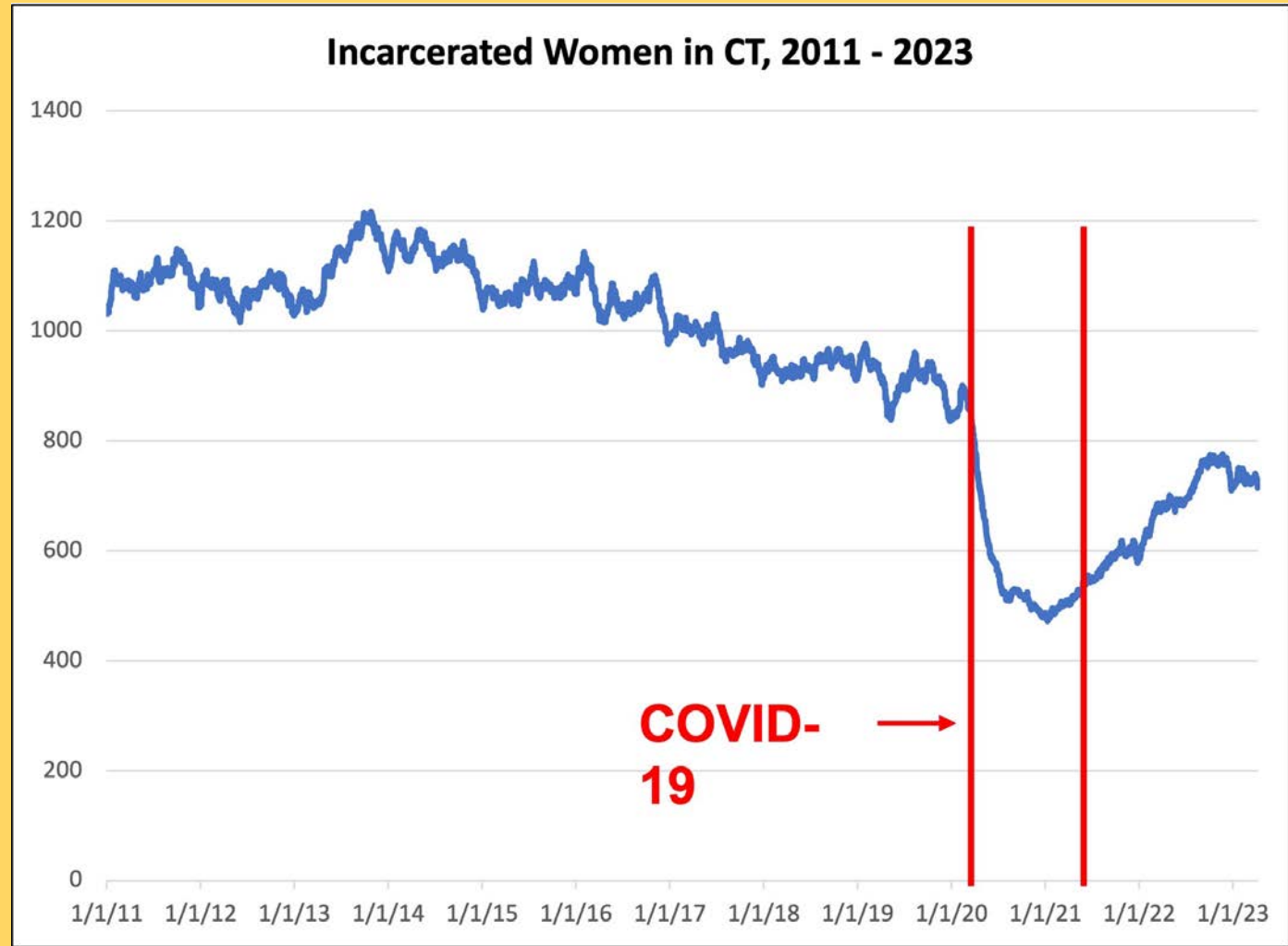
Shawn's mentorship and leadership shaped the career development of the PI on this study, Dr. Amy Smoyer, and the lives of all those who had the privilege to work with her.

Her vision is reflected in the project's framework which centers the expertise and knowledge of people with lived experience. The focus on women and people who inject drugs aligns with Shawn's persistent and unflinching focus on **marginalized communities, gender equality, anti-racism practices, and harm reduction programs**, especially housing and syringe exchange.

Pray for the dead.  
Fight like hell for  
the living.

—Mother Jones

The number of women incarcerated in CT dropped by 43% during COVID.





# Specific Aims

## RESEARCH QUESTION:

*What was the impact of COVID-19 shifts in criminal-legal practices on the HIV risk behaviors of justice-involved women who use drugs?*

- **Specific Aim #1:** PROVIDE undergraduate students the opportunity to gain significant experience with community engaged research.
- **Specific Aim #2:** IDENTIFY the pre-COVID-19 HIV risk behaviors and protective factors of justice-involved women who use drugs.
- **Specific Aim #3:** DOCUMENT and ASSESS HIV risk during COVID-19 among justice-involved women who use drugs.

## Team Building



- Orientation**
- CITI Certification
  - Teams: Read, Listen, Watch
  - Website Photo & Bio
  - Office Hours Schedule

- Communication**
- Friday Meetings
  - Group Text
  - Teams Work
  - Email
- 

## Community Engagement

- Meetings**
- Ryan White
  - Reentry Roundtables
  - Yale CIRA QRWG
  - CT Social Work Action Alliance (SWAA)

- Volunteer**
- SWAN
  - City Wide Youth
  - Stop Solitary CT
  - DESK
- 



## Data Collection

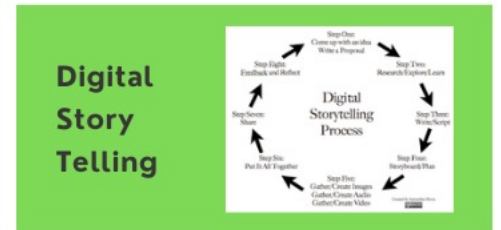
- Create Instruments**
- Demographic Survey
  - Life History Interview
  - COVID Calendar Interview

- Develop Recruitment Plan**
- Logo & Website
  - Flyers & Outreach
  - IRB Approval



## Analysis & Dissemination

- Data Management & Analysis**
- Transcribe
  - RQI: Summarize & Share
  - Code & Thematic Analysis



- Dissemination**
- Peer Reviewed Journals
  - Conferences
  - Community Meetings
  - Website/Social Media

# Project Team



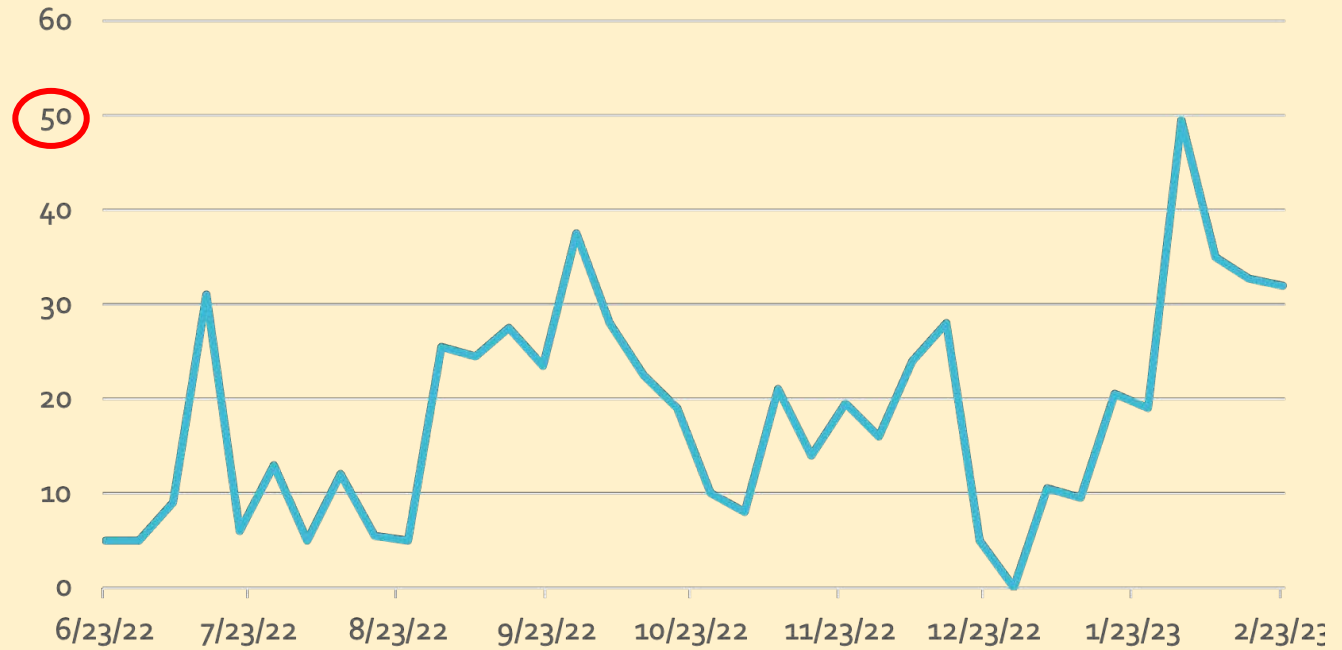
- [www.theshawnproject.com/team](http://www.theshawnproject.com/team)
- SWK Faculty & Undergraduate Students
- Core Team Consultants
  - Maribel Oyola, MSW – ongoing core member (SCSU MSW alumn)
  - Nadine Ruff, MSW – ongoing core member (SCSU BSW & MSW alumn)
  - Jamie Myers, MD, Yale School of Medicine, Clinical Expert
- Community Consultants
  - Ashley Hampton, LCSW – Clinical Supervision (SCSU MSW alumn)
  - Monya Saunders – Recruitment (Yale RA)
  - Maeve Pierce – Graphic Designer (SCSU '23, Studio Art)
  - Pamela Allen, CEO & President, Evergreen Family Oriented Services



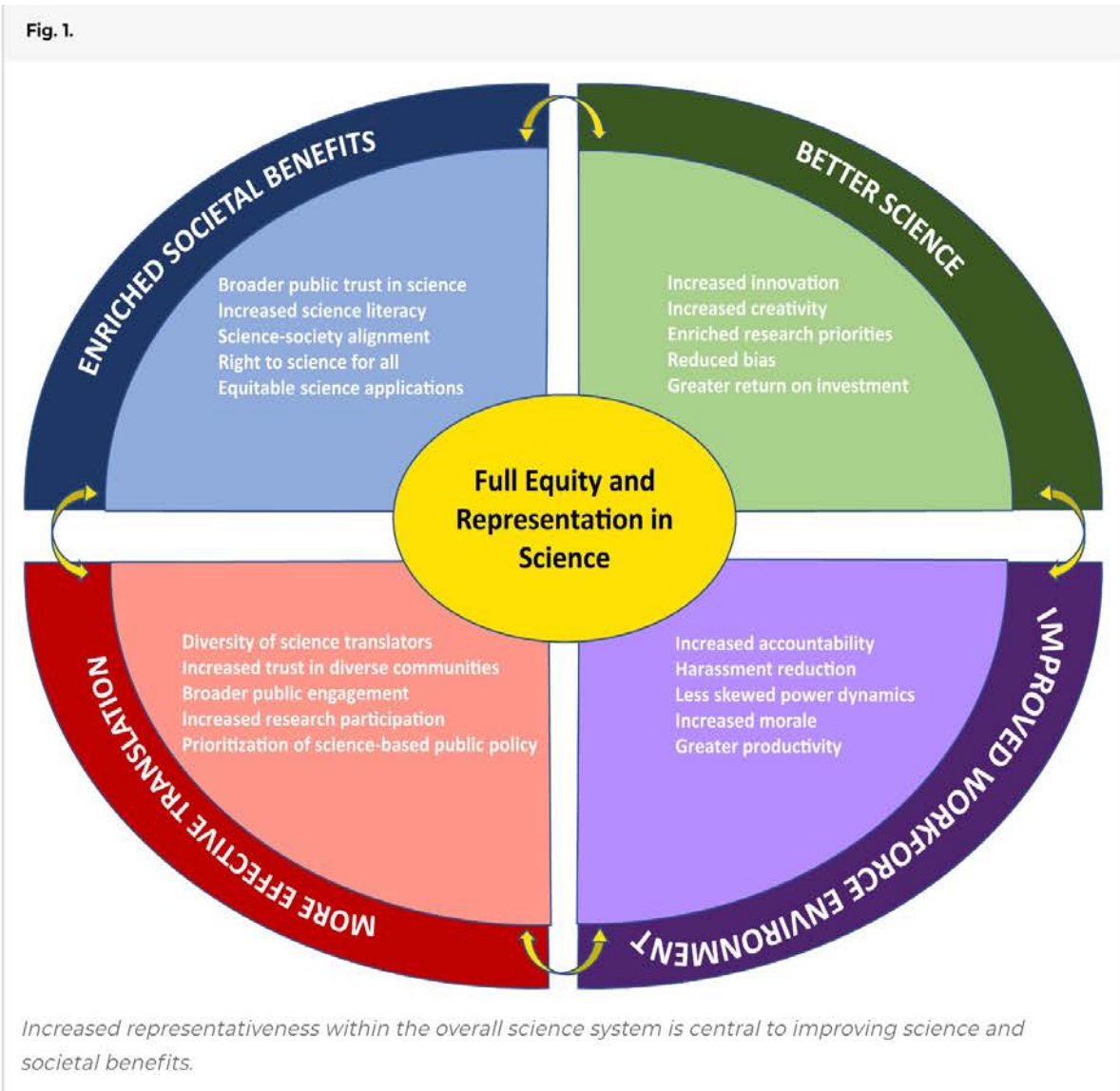
Harm Reduction  
Framework:

Meeting People  
Where They Are

Team Hours Per Week



# Equity & Representation in Science



Graves Jr, J. L., Kearney, M., Barabino, G., & Malcom, S. (2022). Inequality in science and the case for a new agenda. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(10), e2117831119.

Thank you!

Have a great  
conference  
and stay in  
touch!

**Nadine Ruff**

[Nadine.Ruff@apnh.org](mailto:Nadine.Ruff@apnh.org)

**Amy Smoyer:**

[SmoyerA1@southernct.edu](mailto:SmoyerA1@southernct.edu)

[www.amysmoyer.com](http://www.amysmoyer.com)

SHAWN: [www.theshawnproject.com](http://www.theshawnproject.com)

