Fusing Empiricism and Activism: The Role of Social Work Research in Fueling Social Change
WHY

RCDC Roots & Wings Sessions

- 2017
  - Roots: Mentoring
  - Wings: Alternative dissertations

- 2018
  - Roots: GADE Guidelines
  - Wings: Communicating across media/audiences

- 2019
  - Roots: Comprehensive examinations
  - Wings: Fusing activism and research
- WHY
- HOW

Roundtable Discussions
WHY
HOW
WHO

Spontaneous Participants
• Laina Bay-Cheng, University at Buffalo
WHY
HOW
WHO

Featured Participants

Laina Bay-Cheng, University at Buffalo
• Amy Castro Baker, University of Pennsylvania
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Amy Castro Baker, University of Pennsylvania
• Daria Mueller, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
WHY
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Laina Bay-Cheng, University at Buffalo
Amy Castro Baker, University of Pennsylvania
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• Michael Reisch, University of Maryland
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Amy Castro Baker, University of Pennsylvania
Daria Mueller, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Michael Reisch, University of Maryland

• Sheila Vakharia, Drug Policy Alliance
- WHY
- HOW
- WHO
- WHAT...
Featured participants:

*How do you identify as a researcher and/or activist?*
Featured participants:

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What is the appropriate relation between empiricism and activism?
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  *How do you identify as a researcher and/or activist?*

- What is the appropriate relation between empiricism and activism?

- What are the prospects - for dimmer or for brighter – of social work research for change?
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  How do you identify as a researcher and/or activist?

- What is the appropriate relation between empiricism and activism?

- What are the prospects - for dimmer or for brighter – of social work research for change?

- What ought SW programs and established researchers do to enable PhD student & early career activist-researchers?
Tips for Generating Evidence for Justice

[Fine, 2012]
publicscienceproject.org

1. Design research in solidarity with activist organizations.
2. Dismantle the hierarchy of expertise, challenge presumptions of objectivity, honor the expertise/wisdom of experience through participatory action research.
3. Challenge scientific dissociation by documenting the full landscape, not just the damaged sector, of structural injustice.
4. Contextualize and supplement traditional indicators.
5. Document the cost–benefit of not providing social safety nets.
7. Publish multiple interpretations of the data.
8. Produce provocative products from your research.
10. Educate your graduate students and the public about “banal accountability.”