


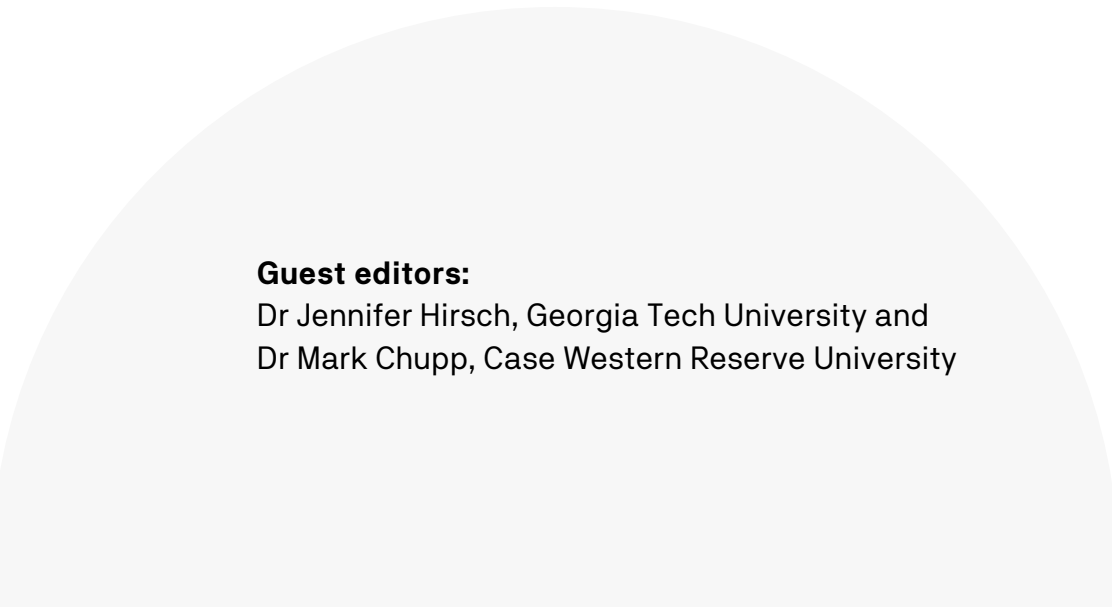
Estimated publication date:
15 December 2023

Call for Themed Volume of Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement

Asset-based Community Development and
Community-based Research: Compatible agents
in equitable and sustainable change?

Guest editors:

Dr Jennifer Hirsch, Georgia Tech University and
Dr Mark Chupp, Case Western Reserve University



Overview

Community-university engaged research has been steadily growing in legitimacy and visibility over the past few decades. Globally, there is now a significant and rich body of evidence attesting to the diversity of collaborative and innovative research initiatives underway in which community partners are rightful and knowledgeable co-investigators, rather than merely research 'subjects'. A distinct, if aligned evolution can be found within the equally longstanding and diverse field of community development. Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) in particular has emerged as an important framework for bringing a strengths-based and relationship-centred approach to addressing challenges faced by communities and individuals (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993). ABCD is grounded in the recognition that individuals and community groups, working together and from within the community, have expertise, skills and resources that are essential to effecting positive social change in their local communities (Roy, 2017). Today, ABCD work is prominent among community-based organizations, non-profits, NGOs and funders throughout North America, Europe, Africa, Australia and other parts of the world.

Both of these movements are centrally concerned with authentic, mutually beneficial, and change-oriented partnerships. Yet, their paths only rarely overlap. This themed volume seeks to explore the potential, tensions and challenges that might result from more explicit and intentional engagements between asset-based community development and community-based research. Its starting point is the recognition that each movement has its own histories, priorities, and practices, which vary both internally and between them. Further both of these movements are vulnerable to institutional pressures, some of which bear a similar theme: that of accommodation that comes with working from within larger bureaucratized institutional structures and systems that undermine the very change-oriented goals propelling the work (Sandmann & Jones, 2019; Harrison et al., 2019; Stoecker & Falcón, 2022). In order to ground the volume, a commissioned article will provide a critical, historical overview of asset-based approaches, exploring how they differ from other community-based methodologies.

We invite contributors to explore some or all of the following key questions:

- How does asset-based community development relate to and interact with academic research? Who benefits from this interaction?
- Can an asset-based orientation help position community participants as peer 'experts' alongside their academic partners, sharing power and authority in the collaboration? If so, how? If not, why not?
- What are the benefits and risks of bringing an institution-based research focus to place-based community development initiatives?
- What examples of community-based research utilising an asset-based orientation already exist? Share success stories, but also mishaps, misadventures and serendipities: lessons learnt the hard way.



We extend a special invitation to practitioners, leaders, activists and community members, to submit:

- Separate or co-authored submissions reflecting on any of the above. Contributions can be short (one page or more); reflective, practice-based or theoretical; in agreement or dissent.

In line with *Gateways*' mission of supporting and widening participation in the scholarly communication of collaborative research and practice, co-authored submissions are encouraged, as are submissions from north, south, east, west. We welcome experimental approaches to research writing, which may include interviews, first-person perspectives or group-based contributions. Similarly, different forms of media are welcome (e.g. videos, sounds, mappings etc.).

Process and timeline

The journal and its editors are committed to a supportive process. This means that between the selection of abstracts and the final manuscript submission to the journal, we will hold at least one virtual or in-person workshop that will allow contributors to share ideas, provide feedback and invigorate each other's composition. While this may seem particularly helpful to first-time academic authors and contributors, we believe that such a supportive approach is beneficial for all, as it opens up the often-lonely writing and creation process to collective thought and practice.

Activity	Date Due
Call for papers	November 9, 2022
Paper proposals due, 500 words	December 9, 2022
Notification to authors	December 19, 2022
Writers' workshop TBC	Late March/Early April 2023
Manuscript submission	May 31, 2023
Editorial Committee feedback	July 3, 2023
Peer review and revisions	July through October 2023
Finalisation of manuscripts	November, 2023
Publication	December 15, 2023

Authors interested in participating in this special issue are encouraged to submit a short proposal (up to 500 words by December 9, 2022; please indicate if your proposal is for a research article, a practice-based article, or a snapshot). For more details on the different article categories and to familiarize yourself with the scope of the journal, please visit:

<https://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/ijcre/about/editorialPolicies#focusAndScope>



Please send proposals and any questions directly to the Managing Editor of *Gateways* journal, Margaret Malone (Margaret.Malone@uts.edu.au), The Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion, University of Technology Sydney, Australia.

About the journal

Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement is a refereed journal that responds to an emerging global movement of collaborative and change-oriented university-community research initiatives. It provides a forum for academics, practitioners and community representatives to explore issues and reflect on practices relating to the full range of engaged activity. Articles will not only bridge disciplinary boundaries but will seek to rigorously combine different knowledge bases that have traditionally been separated into academic and non-academic worlds. As such, cooperative, innovative and ethical community-based research approaches to conceptualising, designing, completing and communicating research are encouraged. As an open access journal, *Gateways'* mission is to increase the timely, accessible and inclusive sharing of critical insights and practice to scholars, community leaders and activists seeking to improve the quality of life in local communities around the world.

References

Harrison, R., Blickem, C., Lamb, J., Kirk, S., & Vassilev, I. (2019). Asset-based community development: Narratives, practice, and conditions of possibility - a qualitative study with community practitioners. *SAGE Open*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244018823081>

Kretzmann, J.P., & McKnight, J.L. (1993). *Building communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets*. The Asset-Based Community Development Institute.

Roy, M.J. (2017). The assets-based approach: Furthering a neoliberal agenda or rediscovering the old public health? A critical examination of practitioner discourses. *Critical Public Health*, 27(4), 455-464. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09581596.2016.1249826>

Sandmann, L.R., & Jones, D.O. (Eds). (2019). *Building the field of higher education engagement: Foundational ideas and future directions*. Stylus.

Stoecker, R., & Falcón, A. (2022). Introduction: Reflecting upon the development of participatory action research and community development efforts. In R. Stoecker & A. Falcón (Eds.), *Handbook on participatory action research and community development* (pp. 1-21). Edward Elgar Publishing.

