



# Community University Partnership Research

## Steps towards a negotiated social justice

Jessica Ball, M.P.H., Ph.D.,  
School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria, Canada

RELATIONAL KNOWLEDGE  
negotiated PRAXIS  
CULTURAL safety  
CO-CONSTRUCTION  
ETHICAL space

**Q** If we leave our institutional or community-based learning sites, do we have to leave our context-embedded knowledge behind?



*"It's a gift to walk in two worlds, but also a responsibility. Ethical space does not exist unless you look at it, affirm it."* Willie Ermine, 2006

**Q** Can we have a symphony of sounds, or must we all sing out of the same page in the song book?

- A project can bring together many disparate actors and objectives.**
- Different people may want different things from the same project.
  - Different parties bring different resources and constraints.
  - Different time points will bring different opportunities, challenges, learning points and accomplishments.
  - Anticipate these variabilities.
  - Acknowledge them in periodic process reviews.
  - Make adjustments to accommodate emerging opportunities and challenges.

**Q** Can we create a movement, with different constituencies, sensitivities, needs and goals, but with a shared agenda for knowledge creation, mobilization and social change?

- How to orchestrate diverse players and parts**
- Clear, uncluttered vision of main project goals
  - Selective inclusion of players: keen, independent and collaborative
  - Effective co-leadership (community/university)
  - Responsive co-management (community/university)
  - Clear structure for independent and for collective aspects of the project
  - Memoranda of agreement pre-establishing ownership of outputs.

**Q** Isn't it really all about the LOVE? Or at least the desire for a BETTER WORLD? Why does it nearly always turn out to be about the MONEY, or everyone's CONTROL issues?

### Memoranda of agreement

A tool for good process and protection for all parties to a project  
*Who will do what, why, when, how, and with which resources*

### 6 degrees of mutual interdependence



- Purpose:** perspectives on why the project is being done.
- Plan:** approach, research sites, project phases, timelines
- People:** differentiated roles, distributed division of labour
- Procedures:** methods, activities, analysis of data
- Products:** outputs, outcomes, consequences
- Possession:** of data, responsibility, outputs, dissemination

Collective, periodic reviews of the Memoranda of Agreement reinforces understandings and supports revisions as needed.

### Promising principles

- 1 Publically funded research should benefit the public (directly or indirectly, immediately or eventually). Investigators in communities and universities are accountable to the public.
- 2 People who will be most affected by the conduct and the consequences of a project should have more influence over project decisions.
- 3 Equitable practice does not mean equal division of resources or responsibilities. Negotiated agreements may distribute funds, labour, and control based on a consensus about what is likely to work best.

To find out more: [www.ecdip.org](http://www.ecdip.org)

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