

Portland State University

PDXScholar

Institute for Sustainable Solutions Publications
and Presentations

Institute for Sustainable Solutions

5-7-2013

Social Inclusion at the Neighborhood Level: The Community Partnership for Health and Equity

Veronica Dujon
Portland State University

Eileen M. Brennan
Portland State University

Jana L. Meinhold
Portland State University, meinhold@pdx.edu

Marion Sharp
Portland State University

Karen Cellarius
Portland State University, cellark@pdx.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/iss_pub



Part of the [Place and Environment Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Citation Details

Dujon, Veronica; Brennan, Eileen M.; Meinhold, Jana L.; Sharp, Marion; and Cellarius, Karen, "Social Inclusion at the Neighborhood Level: The Community Partnership for Health and Equity" (2013). *Institute for Sustainable Solutions Publications and Presentations*. 87.

https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/iss_pub/87

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Institute for Sustainable Solutions Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

Social Inclusion at the Neighborhood Level:

The Community Partnership for Health and Equity

Research to Action Symposium: Sustainable Neighborhoods
May 7, 2013

Veronica Dujon

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Eileen M. Brennan

- Regional Research Institute for Human Services, School of Social Work

Jana L. Meinhold

- Child and Family Studies, School of Social Work

Marion Sharp

- Graduate School of Education

Karen Cellarius

- Regional Research Institute for Human Services, School of Social Work

Objectives

- **To discuss the central role of social inclusion in promoting social sustainability**
- **To present our experiences with a university-community partnership focused on eliminating health disparities.**

Social Sustainability

- We are coming to realize that environmental and economic problems are **social** problems (Cuthill, 2010; Manzi et al., 2010).
- Achieving **social sustainability** has become central to our efforts to attain renewable and regenerative environmental and economic systems

Working Definition

Social sustainability includes

both:

- the **processes** that generate social health and well-being now and in the future and
- the **social institutions** that facilitate environmental and economic sustainability now and in

Process of Human Development

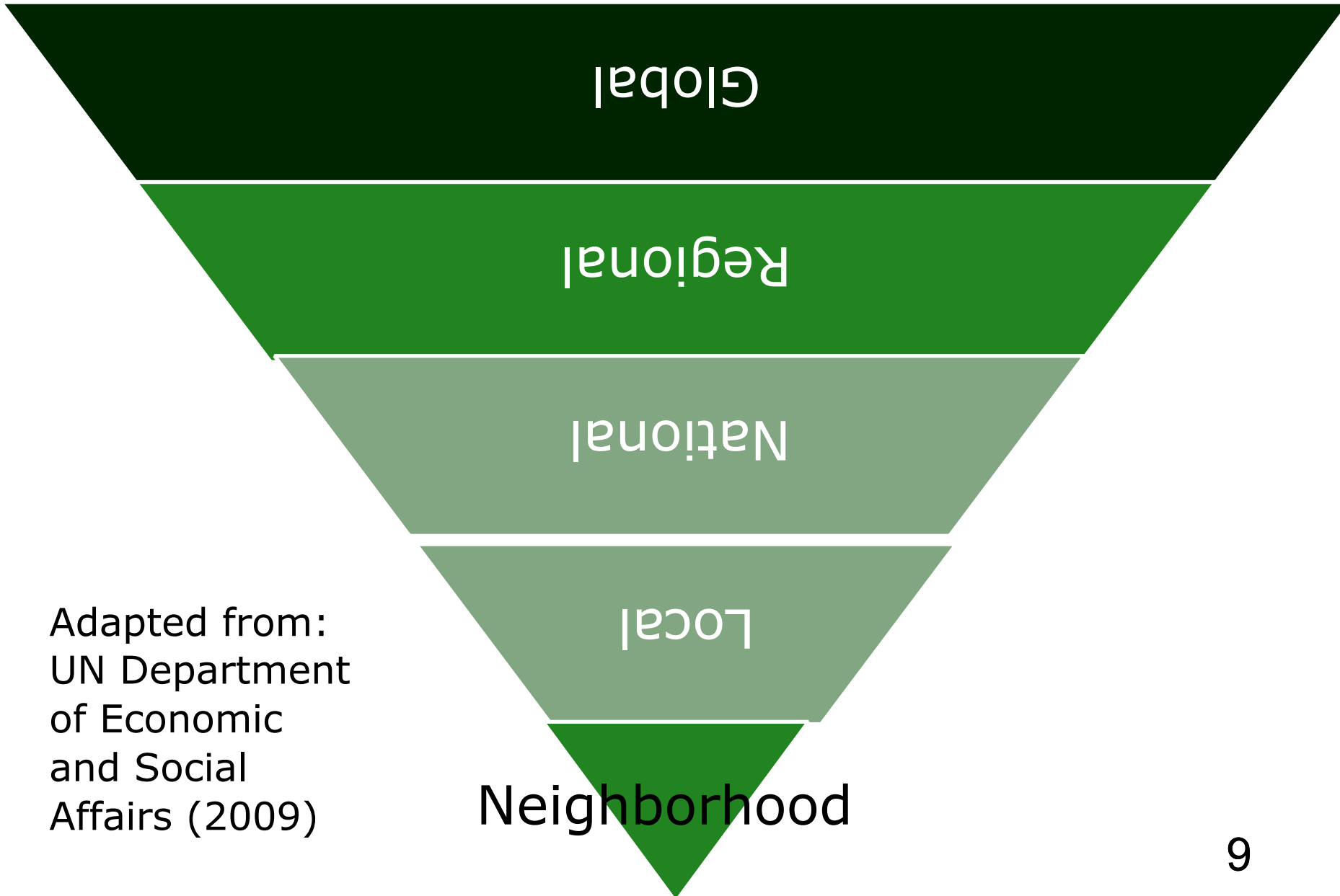
- The purpose of development is to improve human lives by expanding the range of things that a person could be and do (Sen, 1999).
- People then must have certain **freedoms**:
 - The ability to maintain themselves
 - Power or personal agency to bring about

Social Inclusion

Social inclusion requires that all persons have effective input into those development processes that affect them, within the current and anticipated constellations of social and economic power (Abrams, Hogg, & Marques, 2004; Dillard Dujon, & Brennan, 2013).

An Inclusive Society

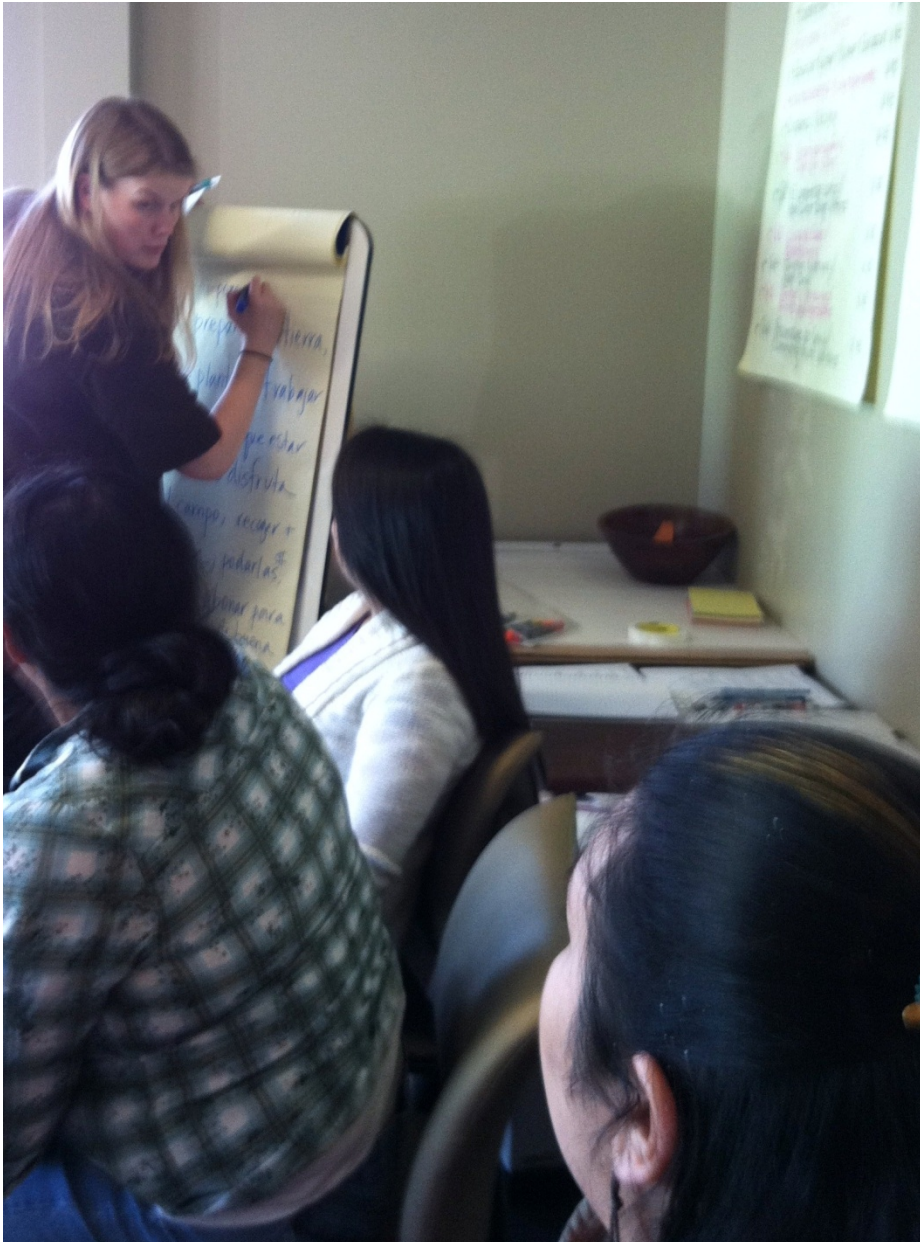
- Is a “**society for all** in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities has an active role to play.” (World Summit for Social Development, 1995).
- Overrides differences of race, ethnicity, gender, class, generation, and geography. (Ferguson, 2008).
- Ensures equality of opportunity—both in education and political participation



Adapted from:
UN Department
of Economic
and Social
Affairs (2009)

Inclusion: Neighborhood Level

- In urban communities, inclusion has much to do with the empowerment and civic engagement of all stakeholders. (DESA, 2009).
- The less inclusivity in the design of “sustainable practices” at the community or neighborhood level, the less likely they are to succeed, and the more likely



Community Partnership for Health and Equity

Long-Term Relationship Building

- Crucial to include participation from underrepresented stakeholders.
- Key was to listen to community members, and develop priorities for research and shared endeavors based on their information.
- Focus was on co-learning.

Community-University Meetings

- Series of meetings held with members of community organizations, faculty and students interested in joint projects.
- Required extensive work to keep all members informed of the proposed agenda, to record the decisions made, and to report meeting outcomes to all interested parties.

Community Partnership for Health and Equity (CPHE)

- Members developed operating principles to govern our endeavors.
- Members proposed names for the collaborative, then voted on **Community Partnership for Health and Equity.**
- Research funding opportunities were selected to improve the situation of those whose social position disadvantages them and exposes them to unfavorable and unhealthy environmental conditions.

CBPR Methodology:

- Growing discourse on health equity research advocates for **community based participatory research** (CBPR) approaches (Israel et al., 2010).
- CBPR takes considerable time on the part of the researchers and community partners to develop joint ventures addressing environmental health issues prioritized by community members (Minkler, 2004).

CPHE Community Gardening Project

- Conducting a community survey and community focus groups to examine resident perspectives.
- We used CBPR principles and engaged in planning with potential participants. (Israel et al., 2010).
- Will be seeking federal funding which will support research and services.

Some Partnership Issues

- Strategy is to help the community to recognize the exceptional value in our collaboration, and the potential for positive outcomes for the community's future.
- The value in long term relationships has much to do with expectations and the community's agreed upon preplanned objectives.
- We hope to foster critical thinking, intellectual openness and a cultural opportunity for growth 17



- Central City Concern, Carole Romm, Public Affairs Director
- City of Portland - Office of Neighborhood Involvement, Jeri Williams, Neighborhood Program Coordinator
- Coalition for a Livable Future, Mara Gross, Interim Executive Director
- Foster Green EcoDistrict, Jalene Littlejohn, Community Engagement Coordinator
- Groundwork Portland, Dianne Riley, board member; Cassie Cohen, program director
- Janus Youth – Village Gardens, Amber Baker, Village Gardens Director; Jason Skipton, Community Program Supervisor
- Josiah Hill III Clinic, Bill Lambert, Board Chair
- Multnomah County Health Department, Ben Duncan, Senior Program Development Specialist; Noelle Wiggins, Community Capacitation Program Director.
- Organizing People-Activating Leaders (OPAL), Jon Oster, Co-Director; Ben Duncan, Board Chair
- Sisters of the Road, Heather Fercho, Research and Health Policy Associate
- The Urban League of Portland, Ty Schwoeffermann, Health Equity Organizer; Midge Purcell, Coordinator, Organization & Public Affairs

- Matt Carlson, Bill Wright, Providence Oregon Health Study Group,
- Amber Baker, Janus Youth Programs
- Mara Gross, Coalition for a Livable Future
- William Lambert, Epidemiology, OHSU
- Gil Munoz, Virginia Garcia Health Centers
- Christina Nicolaidis, OHSU,/PSU
- LeRoy Patton, Independent Consultant
- Laurie Powers, PSU, Regional Research Institute for Human Services
- Tricia Tillman, Director, Oregon Health Authority, Office Equity and Inclusion
- Noelle Wiggins, Director, Community Capacitation Center, Multnomah County Health Department, faculty PSU School of Community Health
- Eileen Brennan, Karen Cellarius, Veronica Dujon, Margaret Everett, Ginny Garcia-Alexander, Jana Meinhold, Marion Sharp, and Alma Trinidad, PSU Faculty



**This presentation was supported by a grant
from the James F. and Marion L. Miller
Foundation through the Institute for Sustainable
Solutions,
and by the School of Social Work
Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, USA²⁰**