Exploring Decolonizing, Indigenous and African Diasporic Knowing: A Video Sharing Circle

Our Story, Our Time, Our Future
14th International Indigenous Pre-conference on HIV/AIDS


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- Consultation participants at AIDS 2012 (e.g., Indigenous and African Diaspora scholars)
- Videographer—Rémy Huberdeau

Background

- Globally, Indigenous peoples and African/Caribbean/Black (ACB) diaspora are disproportionately impacted by HIV
- Knowledges of peoples of African and Indigenous descent change the ways we think about and conduct research
  - Decolonizing and Indigenous methodologies
    - Tremendous growth over the past plus-decade
    - Aligned with the development of the family of participatory research approaches (e.g., PAR, CBR, CBPR, AR, etc.)
    - Intended to give voice to African and Indigenous peoples
    - Cultural identities matter in research contexts
    - Ethical and moral responsibility

First Steps

- To conduct a scoping review study to review and summarize the growing body of literature on decolonizing, Indigenous methodologies and “diaspora” thought to inform HIV prevention social research
- Produce a working paper/framework which can be shared widely with others engaged in HIV/AIDS research

Definitions

A scoping review is a study that maps the literature and is used by researchers and community members to help summarize a range of evidence in order to convey the breadth of a field (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005)

Decolonizing (i.e., supports self-determination/challenges colonialism in research), Indigenous (i.e., by and for, using techniques and methods drawn from traditional/indigenous knowledges of Indigenous peoples), Diaspora (i.e., a term linked to imperialism, displacement from homelands and its connection to colonized experience) (Smith, 1999; Evan et al, 2009; Evans Braziel & Mannur, 2003)
Emerging Themes from the Literature

- Decolonizing knowing centering the issues and worldviews of Indigenous and African populations
- Colonialism (processes, practices, histories, ideologies) and its impact on Indigenous/African cultures
- Incorporation of cultural knowing/knowledge within research
- Reclamation of voice within knowing practice
- Connectedness or relational ontology (i.e., relationship to what we know)
- Holistic health as tied to decolonized knowing practices
- Ethical responsibilities of conducting research
- Community participation and active collaboration
- Culturally appropriate research methods
- Conducting research of community benefit
- Developing research mechanisms that foster community ownership/control
- Allowing reflexivity (i.e., critical reflection of experiential knowing) to emerge within research
- “Two-eyed seeing”/“double consciousness”—seeing/using the strengths in both Indigenous/Afrocentric and Western ways of knowing

Questions remained …

Was the research process in which we were engaged decolonizing knowing?

- How did we shape the scoping process using our emerging of the decolonized knowing?
  - Tensions in worldviews and ways of knowing
  - Concepts and languages
  - Reader’s relationship to the literature and beyond

- What did this re-shaping say about our engagement with the literature that we were reading?
  - Finding one’s voice
  - Collaborating across cultures and systems
  - Varying locations and identities.
  - Literature similarities and differences

How did we shift knowledge translation using Indigenous approaches?

Discourses on Decolonization
Discussion Points

- Using video made our research process more congruent with Indigenous and African oral culture
- Opened space for individual and collective reflection
- Impact of work is far-reaching. Transforms our practice and personal relationships to HIV social research and the scoping review process.
- Also invites allies to explore with us the use of decolonizing, Indigenous and diasporic knowing

Where can you watch the videos?

AIDS2014
- Canada Booth: (insert date)
- African Diasporic Global Village: Thursday July 24th 12pm

Web links
The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network Youtube Channel
http://www.youtube.com/user/CdnAboriginalAIDS

The African Carribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario
http://www.youtube.com/user/ACCHOntario