

Excellence, Quality, and Rigor in Peer Review of Community Engaged Scholarship Workshop

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University Outreach and Engagement

Michigan State University

Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference

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1:20-3:20 pm

Today's Learning Objectives

At the end of this workshop, you will

1. Understand peer review of community-engaged scholarship, especially how it differs from peer review of traditional scholarship.
2. Appreciate historical efforts to define excellence, quality, and rigor for community-engaged scholarship, including differences and similarities of the various criteria.
3. Learn an approach for providing critical and constructive reviewer comments.
4. Practice being a peer reviewer of community-engaged scholarship.
5. Be familiar with resources available to you to increase understanding and improve skills for peer review of community-engaged scholarship on your own campus.

Today's Roadmap

- Introduction
 - What is peer review? When and why does peer review occur?
- How peer review of CES differs from traditional scholarship.
 - Community partner voice.
 - Student/learner voice.
- Historical overview of excellence, quality, and rigor and peer review in CES.
- Critical and constructive feedback.
- CES peer review learning activities.
- Resources for talking about peer review of CES on your campus.



Opening Questions

With a show of hands,

- How many of you have served as a peer reviewer
 - For a journal article?
 - For a grant proposal?
 - For a conference proposal?
 - For a community-engagement award?
- How many of you have received comments from a reviewer that were unhelpful—vague? scathing?
- How many of you are concerned about the capacity of committee members or mid-level administrators to review community-engaged scholarship thoroughly and fairly during reappointment, promotion, and tenure reviews?

Peer Review Defined

- According to Merriam-Webster, peer review is “ a process by which a scholarly work (such as a paper or research proposal) is checked by a group of experts in the same field [i.e., peers] to make sure it meets the necessary standards before it is published or accepted.”
- Peer review is fundamental to the definition of scholarship. To be considered scholarly, an activity “is judged to be significant and meritorious (product, process, and/or results) by a panel of peers” Diamond (2002).

Examples of Peer Review

Students

- Research proposals, especially by graduate students.
- Student learning portfolios.
 - Undergraduate.
 - graduate students.
- Scholarship applications.
- Awards.
 - campus.
 - community.

Faculty/Staff

- Research proposals.
- Grant proposals.
- Conference proposals.
- Journal articles.
- Faculty/staff dossiers, especially those for reappointment, promotion, and tenure.
- Awards/recognitions.

What Makes Peer Review of CES Different From Traditional Scholarship?

- Community-engaged scholarship includes scholarly activities related to research and/or teaching that involve full **collaboration of students, community partners, and faculty as co-educators, co-learners, and co-generators of knowledge** and that address questions of public concern” (Katz Jameson, Jaeger, Clayton, & Bringle, 2012, pg. 54).
- The process of collaboration with a community and the inclusion of community partner voice in the scholarly process is the main difference.
- This extends to collaboration with students /learners and student/learner voice, if they are involved.

Community Partner Voice in Peer Review of CES



Peer Review of CES

“In Community-engaged Scholarship, the typical concerns of peer review—focused on rigorous methods, participant risks and benefits, and the significance of findings—are complemented by the equivalent and sometimes greater concerns for the **quality of the engagement process, community-level ethical considerations, and benefits to the community.**” (Gelmon et al (2013), pg. 2).

Key Issues in CES Peer Review

- Who are the **appropriate “peers”** in the peer review of CES?
- What **expertise** is relevant in CES?
- Who **selects** the peers?



Community Partner Continuum of Feedback

What does it mean to “incorporate community partner and/or student/learner feedback” into the peer review process?



Minimal Input into Peer Review

- Role of community members and student/learners is advisory
- Peer review decisions are made by others
- Examples:
 - Letter or email of support for a portfolio
 - Video testimony about the impact of a project

Maximal Input Into Peer Review

- Community partners and student/learners have **decision-making authority**
 - Example: *Journal of Community Engaged Scholarship*
 - “Board reviewers are supplemented by a **diverse range of additional reviewers, including community partners and students**, approved by the editor”
 - Example: *CES4Health.info*
 - “Products and accompanying applications that are submitted to CES4Health.info are first reviewed by a member of the editorial team to ensure it fits the types of products that we review. If it is determined to be a fit, it is **assigned to one community and two academic reviewers** who fulfill reviewer expectations and have relevant areas of expertise.”

Reflection Question

What kinds of community partner feedback are possible for your community-engaged experience?



Historical Overview of Excellence, Quality, and Rigor and Peer Review in CES

Quality, Excellence, and Rigor in Peer Review of Community Engaged Scholarship Workshop—ESC, September 2015
 Burton A. Bargerstock, Miles McNall, and Diane M. Doberneck, Michigan State University

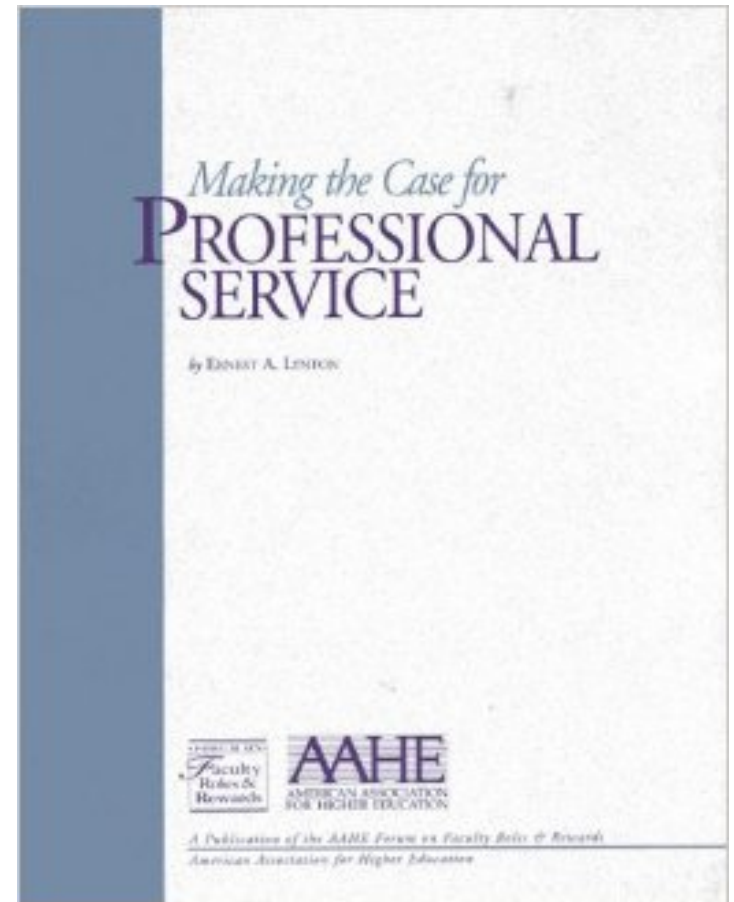
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Author	Significance	Context	Expertise	Adequate Preparation	Goals & Questions	Methods	Impact	Communication	Reflective Critique	Ethics	Other
Lynton (1995)			Depth of expertise & preparation		Appropriateness of chosen goals and methods		Impact	Effectiveness of communication	Quality of reflection		Originality & Innovation
MSU Points of Distinction (1996, revised 2000)	Significance	Context	Scholarship		Significance	Context	Impact				
Glassick, Huber, & Maeroff (1997)		Context of Theory, Literature, Best Practice			Goals & Questions	Methods	Results	Communication & Dissemination	Reflective Critique		
National Review Board (2002)		Context of theory, literature or "best practice"			Goals & Questions	Methods	Results	Communication & Dissemination	Reflective critique		
CES4 Health (2009)	Significance			Adequate preparation	Clear goals	Methodological rigor		Effective presentation	Reflective critique	Ethical behavior	
CCPH/ Jordan (2007)		Adequate preparation in content area & grounding in community		Adequate preparation in content area & grounding in community	Clear academic & community change goals	Methodological rigor and community engagement	Significant results: impact in field and in community	Effective dissemination and presentation to academic and community audiences	Reflective critique	Consistently ethical behavior	Leadership & personal contribution

Making the Case... (1995)

In *Making the Case for Professional Service*, Lynton suggested these measures be applied to all faculty scholarship:

1. Depth of the expertise and preparation
2. Appropriateness of chosen goals and methods
3. Effectiveness of communication
4. Quality of reflection
5. Impact
6. Originality and innovation



Points of Distinction (1996, revised 2000)

Significance

- Importance of issue/opportunity to be addressed
- Goals/objectives of consequence

Context

- Consistency with university/unit values and stakeholder interests
- Appropriateness of expertise
- Degree of collaboration
- Appropriateness of methodological approach
- Sufficiency and creative use of resources

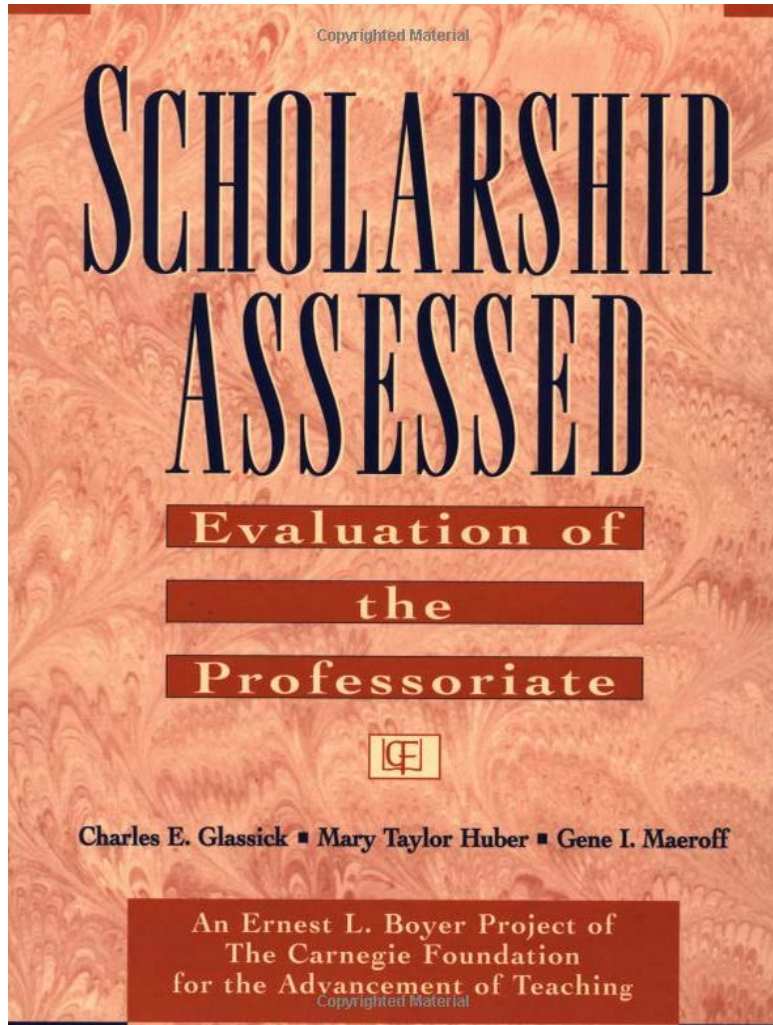
Scholarship

- Knowledge resources
- Knowledge application
- Knowledge generation
- Knowledge utilization

Impact

- Impact on issues, institutions, and individuals
- Sustainability and capacity building
- University-community relations
- Benefit to the university

Scholarship Assessed (1997)



In *Scholarship Assessed*, Glassick, Huber, & Maeroff suggested these criteria be used for outreach and engagement:

1. Goals/Questions
2. Context of Theory, Literature, and Best Practice
3. Methods
4. Results
5. Communication/ Dissemination
6. Reflective Critique



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About Us

The Clearinghouse for the Scholarship of Engagement is designed to:

Sponsor the National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement to provide external peer review and evaluation of faculty's scholarship of engagement;

Provide consultation, training, and technical assistance to campuses who are seeking to develop or strengthen systems in support of the scholarship of engagement;

Conduct forums, programs, and regional conferences on topics related to the scholarship of engagement;

Provide a faculty mentoring program with opportunities for less experienced faculty to learn from the outreach experiences of more seasoned outreach scholars.

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National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement

National Review Board

- provides external peer review and evaluation of faculty's scholarship of engagement

Evaluation Criteria

- Goals/Questions
- Context of theory, literature, or “best practice”
- Methods
- Results
- Communication/dissemination
- Reflective critique

http://www.scholarshipofengagement.org/about/about_us.html



Community-Engaged Scholarship for Health

CES4Health.Info is a free online mechanism for peer-reviewing, publishing and disseminating products of health-related community-engaged scholarship that are in forms other than journal articles. For example, videos, manuals, curricula and products developed through service-learning, community based participatory research and other community-engaged work!

Through CES4Health.Info, you can:

- Search for high quality tools and resources
- Submit products for peer review
- Apply to be a peer reviewer
- Contribute to the field of community-engaged scholarship, and ultimately the health of communities!

NEW PRODUCTS

[Ethical Conduct of Research with Human Participants...](#)
[The New Normal: Living with Lymphedema after Breast ...](#)
[Age-Friendly: Malone Day Project Final Report](#)
[Utilizing Media to Reduce the Burden of Cervical C...](#)

HOT TOPICS

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CES4Health (2009)

Goals

free, online mechanism for peer-reviewing, publishing and disseminating products of health-related community-engaged scholarship that are in forms other than journal articles

Review Criteria

Based on Jordan Ed (2007) and Glassick, Maeroff, & Huber (1997)

- Clear goals
- Adequate preparation
- Methodological rigor
- Significance
- Effective presentation
- Reflective critique
- Ethical behavior

<http://www.ces4health.info/>



Community-Engaged Scholarship for Health Collaborative

Community Engaged Scholarship Review, Promotion & Tenure Package

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Request for Feedback: We are eager for your feedback on this package, including any experiences you may have had in using it. Please complete the online feedback form at <https://catalysttools.washington.edu/webq/survey/sarena/46375> or email your feedback to fipse2@u.washington.edu

CCPH edited by Jordan (2007)

1. Clear academic and community change goals
2. Adequate preparation in content area and grounding in community
3. Methodological methods: Rigor and community engagement
4. Significant results: Impact on the field and community
5. Effective dissemination and presentation to academic and community audiences
6. Reflective critique
7. Leadership and personal contribution
8. Consistently ethical behavior

Providing Constructive and Critical Feedback



Evaluate based on standards

JHEOE Research Article: are quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method studies that **demonstrate the long-term impact of a university-community engagement project** on the community, students, faculty and staff, or the institution.

Research articles should:

- outline the overall concept of the study;
- provide a thorough literature review that is timely and relevant to the study;
- give a clear statement about what gap in the literature the current study is addressing;
- outline the methods used;
- provide robust sections that report the findings of the study and discuss their implications;
- include a section with the limitations of the study and areas for future research;
- provide conclusions that address
 - the gap in the literature that the study addressed;
 - best practices or lessons learned that the reader can apply to her/his context; and/or
 - how the conclusions inform decision makers.

Check your biases

- Treat all peers fairly, including those that disagree with you.



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Rappaport's Rules

1. You should attempt to re-express your target's position so clearly, vividly, and fairly that your target says, "Thanks, I wish I had thought of putting it that way."
2. You should list any points of agreement (especially if they are not matters of general or widespread agreement).
3. You should mention anything you learned from your target.
4. ONLY then are you permitted to say so much as a word of rebuttal or criticism.

Provide a balance of positive and negative feedback

- Lead with what the author did well
 - This paper has a number of strengths, including...
- Then make specific comments about what would make the paper, presentation, etc. better
 - The following changes would make this paper even better...

Be specific in your praise or criticism

- What specifically did the writer do well?
- What specifically did the writer do not so well? And, what could they have done better?
- Refer to line numbers or page numbers

Focus on description, not judgment

- **This:** The discussion of how community partners participated in decisions about the project would benefit from further elaboration. For example, how were community partners involved in the identification of the topic of interest?
- **Not this:** The process for involving community partners in making decisions about the project was poorly described.

Critique the writing, not the writer

- **This:** The treatment of the literature on engaged scholarship was somewhat superficial.
- **Not this:** The author clearly is not familiar with the literature on engaged scholarship.

Focus on observations, rather than inferences

- Observations are what you can see; inferences are the assumptions and interpretations you draw from your observations.
- **This:** The section on critical reflections has few citations to the relevant literature.
- **Not This:** A lack of references to the relevant literature in the section on critical thinking suggests a tendency for this author to take an unscholarly approach to her work.

Strengthen positives, instead of focusing on negatives

- **This:** The specified roles community partners played in this partnership could be made clearer in this portfolio.
- **Not This:** This portfolio does not make clear what roles community partners played in this partnership.

Common Peer Reviewer Mistakes

- Vague, broad, general comments that do not provide adequate direction for the writer/applicant to address the problem in the future.
- Viscous, nasty, belittling comments that leave the writer/applicant feeling emotionally attacked and leave the reviewer feeling smart or smug.

CES Peer Review Learning Activities



Example 1: POD Network Innovation Award

Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network recognizes innovative teaching and learning ideas as well as those that enhance the general effectiveness of higher education faculty members.

Innovation Award Criteria

- Originality
- Scope and Results
- Transferability
- Effectiveness
- Community Impact (added for today's review example)

Example 1: POD Award Results

Criteria	Strong	Stronger	Rating 1 is lowest 5 is highest
1. Originality	Adaptation	Uniquely New	
2. Scope and Results	One Session	Long Term	
	Individual Project	Campus-wide Impact	
	Goals Partially Met	Goals Successfully Met	
3. Transferability	To like institutions of higher education	To all institutions of higher education	
4. Effectiveness	Expensive	Not Expensive	
5. Community Impact	Limited Impact	Sustained Impact	

What is your critical, constructive feedback on this awards proposal?

Example 2: ESC Conf Poster Submission

ESC Conference 15—Poster Review Criteria

1. Contributes to the body of knowledge on engaged scholarship
2. Is grounded in scholarship and/or best practice
3. Addresses at least one of the imperatives for the 2015 conference theme: "Engaged Scholarship: Advancing Rigor, Elevating Impact."
4. Indicates evidence of reciprocity and mutual benefit from the standpoint of all partners (faculty, staff, student, administrators, and/or community partners)
5. Is likely to attract a large audience
6. Does at least one of the following:
 - Reports the specific results of a community-engaged research study,
 - Describes a translational, educational, service-learning, or clinical program or evidence-based community-engaged program or practice

Example 2: ESC Conference Poster Results

Criteria	Rating 1 is lowest 5 is highest	Comments
1. Contributes to the body of knowledge on engaged scholarship		
2. Is grounded in scholarship and/or best practice		
3. Addresses AT LEAST ONE conference theme		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigorous scholarship 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact measurement 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution-wide involvement 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reciprocal inspiration 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity efforts and impact 		
4. Indicates evidence of reciprocity and mutual benefit from the standpoint of all partners (faculty, staff, student, administrators, and/or community partners)		
5. Is likely to attract a large audience		
6. Does at least ONE of the following		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports the specific results of a community-engaged research study 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes a translational, educational, service-learning, or clinical program or evidence-based community-engaged program or practice 		

What is your critical, constructive feedback on this award proposal?

Example 3: CES Seed Grant

Screening Criteria	Rating 1 is lowest 5 is highest	Comments
1. Interdisciplinary: <i>Is the proposal multidisciplinary and integrative representing diverse and meaningful relationships across departments and disciplines?</i>	If no, Stop!	
	If yes, Go on.	
2. Community: <i>Does the proposal link MSU with Michigan communities (broadly defined as a group of people who interact and share certain things, i.e., identity, common interest, professional roles, resources, risks, responsibilities)?</i>	If no, Stop!	
	If yes, Go on.	
3. Community Impact: <i>Is the proposed project useful to the community and does it have the potential to have significant impact on the community?</i>	If no, Stop!	
	If yes, Go on.	
4. Potential Success: <i>Does the project demonstrate potential to be successful as indicated by appropriate methods and analytical approach, letters of support, investigator expertise, etc.?</i>	If no, Stop!	
	If yes, Go on.	

Example 3: CES Seed Grant Results

Rating Criteria	Rating 1 is lowest 5 is highest	Comments
1. Significance		
2. Approach		
3. Innovation		
4. Investigative Team		
5. Likelihood of Extramural Funding		
6. Budget		

What is your critical, constructive feedback on this award proposal?

Peer Review Activity Debrief

1. What was your group's experience as peer reviewers?
2. Were there difference in opinion in your group? If so, how did you resolve them?
3. What was your experience writing critical and constructive feedback? Was it easier/harder than you expected?
4. Other questions, observations?

IDEAS AND RESOURCES FOR YOUR CAMPUS

Excellence, Quality, and Rigor in Community-Engaged Scholarship Workshop—ESC 2015
Diane M. Doberneck, Miles McNall, Burton A. Bargerstock, Michigan State University

IDEAS AND RESOURCES FOR YOUR CAMPUS

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Department/School/College Level

- Convene departmental dialogues about excellence, quality, and rigor
- Mentor junior colleagues about excellence in conducting community-engaged scholarship
- Serve as a reviewer on departmental or college reappointment, promotion and tenure committees
- Serve as a reviewer on departmental, school, or college level awards for community-engaged scholarship

Institution Level

- Serve on institution-wide reappointment, promotion, and tenure committees
- Organize professional development for reappointment, promotion and tenure committee members
- Organize professional development for department chairs, school directors, college deans
- Serve on institution-wide award communities for community-engaged scholarship
- Nominate outstanding scholars for national awards for community-engaged scholarship



Image from <http://www.matchmarketing.us/images/content/questions-and-answers.jpg>

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