

Evidence-Based Practice & Practice-Based Evidence

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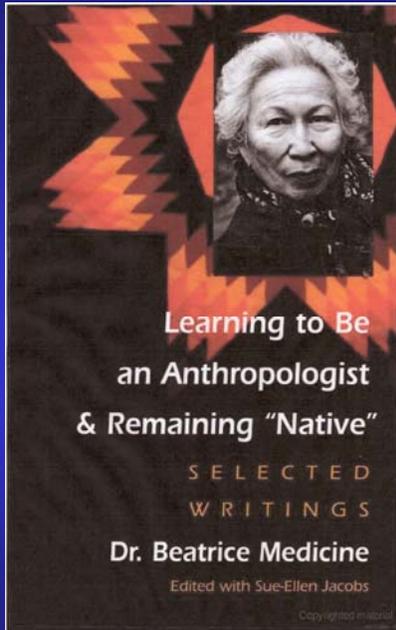
Center for Cross-Cultural Research
Western Washington University

First Nations Behavioral Health Association



Challenge of Integrating Evidence and Practice

- Epistemologies and their Cultural Disconnects
- Before we move ahead, have we looked deep enough into the implicit values of our science and how they reflect upon the “space –in-between”?
- Standards created have historically been and currently are rooted in Western Scientific values
- What kind of impact does this have on indigenous people?



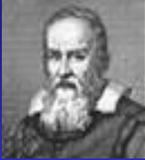
Question: Why this book title?

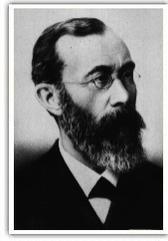
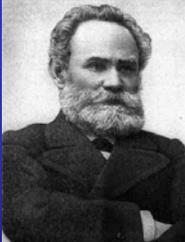
Implies one must fight to maintain one's cultural identity when engaging in scientific research.

Why is this?

Imagine yourself as a non-White person
In the United States.

Now, take a look at the influential
persons in our science and psychology
throughout history.

			
Plato	Aristotle	Galileo	René Descartes
			
Isaac Newton	Francis Bacon	Charles Darwin	John Dalton
			
John Locke	G Stanley Hall	John Stewart Mill	Charles Peirce

			
Wilhelm Wundt - father of psychology	William James - father of American psychology	Sigmund Freud	Carl Jung
			
Ivan Pavlov	Abraham Maslow	Carl Rogers	B. F. Skinner

This conveys a message to non-White populations. There is no one who looks like you, who represents your culture. Rather, they represent something entirely different.

Further, it conveys a message of White superiority and the supremacy of science based on Western European values.

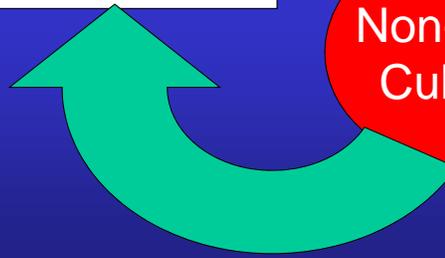
Reinhold Niebuhr stated that those who hold to power in this way assume both moral and intellectual superiority over the “other.”

It follows that if one culture holds the “higher truth” then there is no need to try to understand the “other.” Rather one would expect them to come around to your way of thinking and living. “Civilizing the Native” is an example of this dynamic.

CULTURAL DYNAMIC RESULTING FROM A WESTERN WORLD VIEW AS A SUPERIOR WAY OF KNOWING

Western
European
System

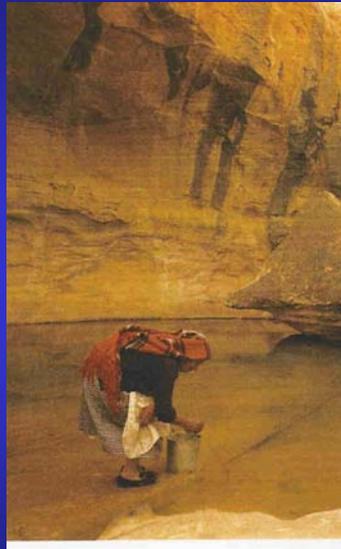
Non-White
Cultures



Are “cultural adaptations” simply Western therapies dressed up in culture?

The difference in world views constitutes, at this time, an insurmountable, fundamental difference.

Given these differences, we must re-evaluate our use of scientific method in the context of Indigenous cultures.



Practice-Based Evidence (PBE)

- PBE started as a way to organize our thinking about the role of culture in treatment & evidence-building – the use of the initials “PBE” was an intentional flip of the “EBP”, PBE work was serious in nature, but also employed social marketing as a way to stimulate broader thinking .
- Practice-Based Evidence is defined as a range of treatment approaches and supports that emerge from the community or culture that are recognized as effective.
- It is also an attempt to bring the locus of healing back into the community and a reversal of historical implementation of services of care.

Where do we go with this?

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

There is a need to support and accept the emergence of other epistemologies.

“Research needs to be based on the reality of our [Hopi] existence as we experience it, not just from the narrow and limited view of American universities carried over from German research tradition.”

(Hopi Tribal Chairman, Vernon Masayesva)

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Indigenous communities need to take greater responsibility in terms of protecting their ways of knowing and not allowing research that carries with it the dynamic of superior-inferior systems.

IRB's must be careful to protect the existing traditional systems of thought while allowing research to be conducted in their respective communities.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Western science needs to become de-centralized—move off its center and its notions of superiority.

A greater openness by science for other epistemologies must emerge, with the recognition that they are to be treated with equal respect.

Please note that I am not dismissing Science and its incredible contribution to our societies.

Rather, I am pointing out its current limitations due to unexamined assumptions.

I am hoping that science can expand itself as a result of careful inquiry—actually a value inherent in true science!



Mvto! (Thank you.)

