

Culture and community development: Towards new conceptualizations and practice

Lewis Williams, Community Development Journal, 2004.

Abstract

Activities associated with cultural evaluation and change can be viewed as 'indispensable' to community development. However, their conceptualization and application remain underdeveloped. This paper contributes to this dialogue in three areas. Firstly, it discusses these issues as they relate to development initiatives with low-income migrant communities living in two core, Western, capitalist nations – Aotearoa/New Zealand and to a lesser extent Canada. Secondly, it articulates a 'power-culture' view of community empowerment, in which development processes are influenced by the dynamics of power and culture that occur from context to context. Thirdly, it highlights critical postmodernist theory as illuminating these dynamics and informing how cultural change may be influenced.