

# UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**Session 8: Intersecting identities and implications for addressing social inequalities.**

ICRPS 2018 - Tuskegee, Alabama

Wayne Kelly

Brandon University



**NUI Galway**  
**OÉ Gaillimh**

# OUTCOMES

Understand concept of community resilience concept in relation to diversity, inclusion and policy

Understand the different benefits and motivations for youth engagement

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

**Community resilience is the existence, development and engagement of community resources to thrive in a dynamic environment characterized by change, uncertainty, unpredictability and surprise.  
(Magis, 2010)**

**Resilience means the ability to withstand and recover from short-term shocks and to adapt to long-term trends  
(Heeks, 2015)**

Resource	Definition
Brennan, M. (2008)	The ability to respond or perform positively in the face of adversity, to achieve despite the presence of disadvantages, or to significantly exceed expectations under given negative circumstances
Norris et al. (2008)	A process linking a set of adaptive capacities to a positive trajectory of functioning and adaptation after a disturbance
Magis (2007 & 2010)	<b>Community resilience is the existence, development and engagement of community resources to thrive in a dynamic environment characterized by change, uncertainty, unpredictability and surprise.</b> Resilient communities intentionally develop personal and collective capacity to respond to and influence change, to sustain and renew the community and to develop new trajectories for the communities' future.
Khanlou & Wray (2014)	Resilience is not just a personality trait or attribute of an individual. Rather, resilience is most often viewed as a process that refers to exposure to adversity and “positive” adaptation
Wilding (2014)	Purposefully avoids defining resilience but cites its importance for responding to social, economic and environmental disruptions; likens resilience to a muscle which, when exercised, builds both strength and capacity
Heeks & Ospina (2015)	<b>Resilience means the ability to withstand and recover from short-term shocks and to adapt to long-term trends</b>
Ashmore et al. (2016)	Uses definition from Magis (2010, p. 402): resilience is “existence, development and engagement of community resources by community members to thrive in an environment characterised by change, uncertainty, unpredictability and surprise”
Roberts et al. (2017)	Uses definition from Magis (2010, p. 402): community resilience is the existence, development and engagement of community resources by community members ... [who] ... intentionally develop personal and collective capacity to respond to and influence change, to sustain and renew the community and to develop new trajectories for the communities’ future.

# OTHER IMPORTANT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FACTORS:

Need to always define what the community resilience goals are and who they are

Community resilience is increasingly being recognized as a process not an end goal

Community resilience is centred around a sense of place, harnesses community capitals or assets and requires agency – the ability to respond

Community resilience can be developed strategically – one of those strategies is ensuring inclusion and engagement

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND POLICY

*[In the UK] There is a strong policy focus on enhancing resilience of communities through engagement, empowerment, asset ownership and capacity building. Steiner et al (2016).*

*References both the UK Cabinet Office (2011) and Scottish Government (2015)*

# KEY TERMS RELATED TO COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Resilience term	Encompassing or overlapping themes	Proxies in policy Docs
Self-organising/mobilising	Agency, efficacy, pro-active, responsibility, collective capacity	'empower' 'enable' 'engage' 'responsibilisation' 'participation' 'widen choice' 'partnerships' 'independently' 'local development'
Social Capital	Networks; connectedness; support structures; cohesive;	'inclusion' 'exclusion' 'cohesion' 'participation' 'connectedness' 'networked' 'reduce isolation'
Social learning	Social memory; Social capital; peer learning	'Life-long learning' 'Developing knowledge base' 'Knowledge transfer' 'informal learning' 'social innovation' 'digital champions' 'partnerships' 'community based learning'
Capacity	Resources; resourcefulness; stocks; assets; capitals (social, economic, environmental);	'Skills' 'Ability' 'Confidence' 'Competitiveness' 'resource efficient' 'capacity building'

Roberts et al (2016) – Table 1: Table of resilience terms and overlapping terminologies/proxies used in policy

# POLICY TERMS RELATED TO COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Multi-scalar	Interacting scales; resilience pathways; lock-in; outwards-facing communities	'Facilitate' 'encourage' 'support' 'Promote' 'Outwards-facing communities' 'links between urban and rural' 'city regions' 'providing incentives' 'stimulate the market' 'scale up'
Adaptation	Adaptability; Adaptive capacity; diversification	'Sustainable management' 'Innovation' 'social and cultural resistance to change' 'transformation' 'transition' 'greener' 'Facilitating diversification'
Health	Well-being; Quality of life; Mobility	'eHealth' 'self-care' 'independent living' 'Access to health services/Accessibility'

Roberts et al (2016) – Table 1: Table of resilience terms and overlapping terminologies/proxies used in policy

# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

*Youth participation is a process involving young people in the institutions that affect their lives*

O'Doherty et al. (2015)

# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT BENEFITS

## **For Community**

Increased representation of community building efforts

Identify and address youth concerns in the community

Develop new and collaborative solutions to community problems

Improves adult perceptions of youth

Builds more resilient communities

## **For Youth**

Improves self-confidence amongst youth

Builds organizational and leadership skills amongst youth

Creates a sense of civic purpose and society for youth

Builds positive relationships with adults and increases youth's social capital

Creates more resilient individuals

Type	Key Aim	Context	Desired Outcome
<b>Engaged citizenship</b>	Participation	Recognition; voice; human rights	Engaged in decisions and influence
<b>Positive youth development</b>	Idealized adulthood	Adaptation; behavioral/cognitive/moral adaptivity; acquisition of life skills	Becoming more socially adapted individuals for future adulthood; social conformity; less risky behaviours
<b>Belonging</b>	Cultivation of affective social inclusion	Increasing attachments to place and others building social capital (trust, networks, norms); finding spaces for a sense of inclusion	Stronger connectedness; better interactions; stronger youth-adult interdependencies
<b>Care</b>	Strong social support and resilience	Building strengths in adversity; preventing escalation of problems; increasing protective factors	Supportive/more effective networks; relevant programmes
<b>Justice</b>	Understanding and addressing injustice	Acknowledging root causes of structural inequality	Social justice

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

- Be action-oriented
- Be relevant to young people's own interests and lived experiences
- Value and foster analysis and reflection
- Empower young people through social networks
- Prioritize young people's participation
- Provide funding and infrastructure
- Design and adopt policies for youth

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