Culture, Race, and Research:  
A Voyage of Head and Heart

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The Journey

• Questioning the questions
• Inequity in Health
• HIV and Culture
The Journey

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- Inequity in Health
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The danger of a Single Story

- Chimamanda Adichie
TUSKEGEE
Tuskegee University in the History of Medicine and Public Health

National Negro Health Week (1915-1950)

National Negro Health Week
Launched in 1915 as a National Negro Health Movement by Booker T. Washington.

The concept was originated by Robert Russa Moton.

Promoted sanitation, education, preventative health care as a means of diminishing mortality in the Negro community.
Tuskegee University in the History of Medicine and Public Health

The Movable School
Africa and Global Health
No man should ever enter his house through another man’s gate

Chinua Achebe (1930 – 2013)
Relearning Assumptions about Learning

• Theory and Practice
  – Health, Culture, Race, Gender

• Are we studying People, Behaviors or Diseases?
  – Social Cultural Infrastructure

• Why Africans and -Americans?
  – Help, Learn, Social Justice
The Journey

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LOSING GROUND

• U.S. ranks near the bottom of industrialized countries on health, and we are
  • 1980 = 11\textsuperscript{th} on Life Expectancy
  • 2006 = 33\textsuperscript{rd}, tied with Slovenia
  • U.S. Ranked behind Cyprus, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Costa Rica and Portugal
  • And it is not just the minorities doing badly!
    • In 2006, White America would be = 30\textsuperscript{th}
    • In 2006, Black America would be 58\textsuperscript{th}
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH: DC UP TO 7 YEARS
New Orleans – up to 25 years
Race
Racism
& Culture
The public health critical race methodology: Praxis for antiracism research

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ABSTRACT

The number of studies targeting racial health inequities and the capabilities for measuring racism effects have grown substantially in recent years. Still, the need remains for a public health framework that moves beyond merely documenting disparities toward eliminating them. Critical Race Theory (CRT) has been the dominant influence on racial scholarship since the 1980s; however, its jurisprudential origins have, until now, limited its application to public health research. To improve the ease and fidelity with which health equity research applies CRT, this paper introduces the Public Health Critical Race praxis (PHCR). PHCR aids the study of contemporary racial phenomena, illuminates disciplinary conventions that may inadvertently reinforce social hierarchies and offers tools for racial equity approaches to knowledge production.

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Volume I:
Executive Summary
Report of the Secretary's Task Force on
Black & Minority Health
Margaret M. Heckler, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Balancing Rights, Entitlements & Privilege

Self

Collective
Closing the gap in a generation

Health equity through action on the social determinants of health
“When you get to the fork in the road, take it.”

YOGI BERRA
Infectious or Chronic Diseases?
Langauging Public Health Priorities

- Multi-morbidity vs multi-vulnerability = multiple conditions that coexist in one body or coexist in one location
- One disease = a fork on the infectious/chronic disease Roads
- Social and Structural determinants of Health
- Generation public health and a Culture of Health
- Social Justice as a public Health Priority
The Journey

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• HIV and Culture
Wole Soyinka

Man is first a cultural being which is why he resorts to his cultural affiliations when politics appear to have failed him, never the other way round.
Identity and Research

Head

Heart
Knowing about Ways of Knowing

Cultural Identity

Do you know who you are without what you do?
- Identity

Relationship and Expectations

No one should enter their home through someone else’s gate.
- Theory/model

Cultural Empowerment

Until the Lions produce their own historians, the story of the hunt will glorify always the hunters -

Culture And Identity
CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT

Positive Existential Negative

PERCEPTIONS

Enablers Nurturers

RELATIONSHIPS & EXPECTATIONS

CULTURAL IDENTITY

THE PEN-3 MODEL

Person
Extended Family Neighborhood

= 9 cells
PEN-3 MODEL APPLICATION

• Assessment Phase
  – Qualitative methods
  – Create a 3x3 table as a team

• Intervention Planning Phase
  – Report Back to community and discuss point of Entry

• Intervention Phase
  – Decide on public strategy or private
  – Promote positive and you discourage negative
Stigma, Culture, and HIV/AIDS in South Africa

—Outside Looking In - Food
—Inside Looking out - Disclosure
—Mirror has two sides - Motherhood

Food

Framing the impact of culture on health: a systematic review of the PEN-3 cultural model and its application in public health research and interventions

Juliet Iwelunmor, Valerie Newsome & Collins O. Airhihenbuwa

Published online: 22 Nov 2013.
PEN-3 Model Application

- Begin with the positive
- Commitment to partnership – reporting back to community
- Be comfortable with being uncomfortable
- Journey Between your Head and your Heart
If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

Nelson Mandela
Research
- Relationships
- Power balance

Method
- Culture
- Structures

Intervention
- Positive
- Family