

Public Impact Scholarship at MSU: New Horizons



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Today

- Introduce myself, my role, and our future work together
- Share: What are you doing in terms of public impact work, why do you do it, and what are your needs for this kind of work moving forward?
- Overview of types of public impact work and how I'll be working to expand MSU's capacity for all of these
- Looking ahead: workshops, programs, and resources
- Q&A

Lessons from Yuma

Expertise: I wasn't the expert

Unanticipated Learning: We all learned something new in ways we didn't expect

Connection through personal relationships and social networks: Couldn't have done it alone - relied on networks of people

Trust: Required trust-building for buy-in, which took time, and only scratched the surface of what would be required in the future

Shared authority in knowledge production: Changed how I understood my own research and how communities understood their own histories

Reciprocity: Sharing information that communities sought, even if it didn't fulfill my own scholarly objectives

My role

- New position at MSU!
- Office of Research Development and MSU Extension
- Building capacity at MSU for a wide range of public impact scholarship
- Aligning research priorities at MSU with community needs and public conversations across Montana
- Stimulating grant activity across the university in service of these goals

This academic year

- Curriculum development: A series of workshops and trainings on public impact scholarship - more on this later!
 - Broader Impacts & Impact Identity
 - Engaged Scholarship
 - Necessary context for doing place- and community-based work
 - Identifying and communicating societal significance of research
- Individual consultations
- Program development

In development over the longer term

- Public Impact Fellows program - separate tracks for faculty and graduate students
- Partnership database
- Impact stories and story maps on MSU as a land grant university
- State of the West: A Montana Conversation Series

PROMPT: How do you define your own community? What communities do you hope to reach through your work? Share in the chat!

“I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world” ~ Rainer Maria Rilke

- What does putting your work in service of the public good mean to you? How did you come to this view?
- How does your current work align with your public service orientation? How would you like it to?
- Start with yourself and move outward: department, MSU, Bozeman, Montana, etc.

What is Engaged Scholarship?

- Scholarly activities focused on the social, civic, economic, educational, artistic, scientific, environmental, and cultural well-being of people and places beyond the academy
- Creation and dissemination of new knowledge to address social issues
- Range of forms of public engagement, from one-way (media appearance/op-ed) to deeply involved community-based participatory research (CBPR)) depending on goals
- Goal: advancement and utilization of knowledge with societally-relevant outcomes

~Adapted from Campus Compact via Clayton Hurd, Stanford University

What are Broader Impacts/Research Impacts?

- A term that originated to describe a set of proposal review criteria (initiated in 1997) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) for “the potential [of a project] to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.”
- Activities influenced by but complementary to a project that are specific to that project
- Examples: involvement of minorities in STEM fields, education/educator development, public engagement and literacy, social well-being, partnerships, national security, economic competitiveness, public policy, etc.
- Research Impact has become a generic term used by other funders as well

Why do public impact scholarship? **Share in the chat!**

- Increasing public visibility and impact of research
- Increasing funding success
- Relationship building within and beyond MSU
- Strengthening communities of practice on shared topics of interest
- Grounding work in place, community, and social context
- Aligning work with core motivations
- Demonstrating the power of the land grant mission for the public good
- Strengthening research and teaching with new kinds of knowledge creation
- Continuous learning and following curiosity

How We Can Work Together: A (Brief) Typology of Engaged Scholarship

- Outreach & Communication
- Engaged Public Programming
- Engaged Research
- Engaged Teaching
- The Infrastructure of Engagement

Outreach & Communication

- The direct transfer of knowledge from scholar to audience
- Do you want to disseminate your findings to the public? Consider:
 - How to best tell your story
 - What argument(s) you want to make
 - Who your audience is
 - Contemporary relevance
 - What platform(s) to use (e.g. op-ed, radio, television, lecture, blog, website, etc.)

Engaged Public Programming

Primary objective is not to transfer knowledge but rather to cultivate an exchange between facilitators and participants concerning subjects of mutual interest.

Engaged Research

- Often referred to as community-based, participatory, or action research
- Involves collaboration between higher education faculty and students and community members that creates knowledge

Engaged Teaching

- Integrate public engagement—whether through outreach, engaged public programming, or engaged research—into undergraduate and graduate instruction
- The results can enhance curricula with project-based learning that benefits both the higher education institution and the community partners

The Infrastructure of Engagement

- Funding for faculty and student engaged research, teaching, and programming
- Recognition of engagement in policies for tenure and promotion
- Faculty and graduate student training programs (institutes, certificates, degrees)
- Centers dedicated to engaged research, teaching, and programming
- Event series, including lectures and other engaged public programs
- Conferences and consortia supporting publicly engaged scholarship

My role is that of a **systems convener**. I seek to **unlock potential across silos and boundaries** to open up **joint learning spaces** for new kinds of conversations to take place, often among unlikely people, with the goal of forging new **partnerships**, creating new kinds of **knowledge**, and stewarding all towards a **common purpose**.

Upcoming in-person workshops and events this semester

- **Workshop:** Wednesday, October 18, 11am-noon, 324 Renne Library Teaching Space
- **Collision event:** “On Impact: Building Partnerships for Engaged Scholarship”
Tuesday, October 24, 3:00-5:00pm, Inspiration Hall
- **Workshop:** December, date TBD
- Consultations - by appointment (daniel.grant1@montana.edu)
- If you have stories about working with Montana communities—both challenges and successes—please share them with me.