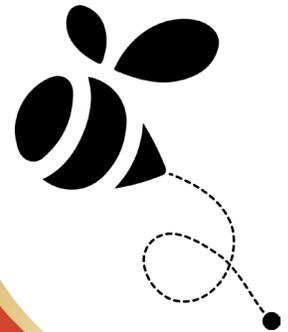


research snapshot

summarize mobilize



Knowledge Mobilization and Anti-Oppression

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

Knowledge brokers focus on helping others share their knowledge. Knowledge, whether research or community-based, can have biases within them. How do knowledge brokers address biases when they have little control over the production of knowledge? This project aims to open a dialogue about the role of knowledge brokers in addressing biases in knowledge.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Research has biases. Biases might come from any part of research or other ways of creating knowledge. When research evidence is part of a knowledge mobilisation (Kmb) plan, how do knowledge brokers evaluate it for biases? How do we ensure that the knowledge being shared does minimal harm? I argue that anti-oppression is one way to explore these difficult questions.

WHAT DID THE RESEARCHER DO?

A knowledge broker works with two collaborative partners to complete community-based Kmb projects. During these collaborations, the knowledge broker used disability anti-oppression frames to work with partners. The disability anti-oppression frameworks focused on intersectionality and social justice.

Reflective research is a methodology designed to help researchers be aware of changes in their views or beliefs that could affect findings. This methodology was used to help monitor disability anti-oppression frames, make changes when needed, and to note when I learned more about anti-oppression.

WHAT DID THE RESEARCHER FIND?

Anti-oppression frameworks can help create strong relationships with collaborative partners. Yet, flexibility is needed to adapt to the needs of the partner. I used different anti-oppression frameworks with various collaborative partners. After a review of anti-oppression frames, crip time was identified as an adaptable disability anti-oppression frame.

Crip time began as a way for disabled folks to talk about the restrictive nature of social expectations of time. Disability theory then explored how crip time gives us a way to talk about the exclusion of disabled people from social spaces. Knowledge brokers can use crip time to think about what they need to do to ensure the inclusion of marginalised groups within their work.

Anti-oppression frameworks also encourage knowledge brokers to think about the language used in Kmb. For instance, the word 'laggards' blames people put in this category when they don't adopt new knowledge

quickly. Placing the blame on 'laggards' make it hard for knowledge brokers to recognise barriers to the spread and use of knowledge. Anti-oppression encourages us to find a new language that does not blame people for obstacles that are out of their control.

I, as a knowledge broker, acted as a consultant. There was no support from an organisation. As the consultant, I had to make sure the anti-oppression framework was being used and was working. Thus, this research was unable to consider the use of anti-oppression in KMb when an organisation with more than one employee.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCHER PROPOSING?

Opening a dialogue about biases in knowledge and research evidence. Knowledge brokers might have little say in the development of knowledge or research evidence. Still, they hold responsibility for potential harms of knowledge they help to share. An open dialogue will help those working in knowledge mobilisation to develop the skills needed to minimise harms.

Anti-oppression frameworks are one way of being talking about potential biases in knowledge or research evidence. Questions that can help start this discussion are: 1. How do we challenge our own biases?; 2. How do we challenge biases within the field of knowledge mobilisation?; 3. How do knowledge brokers address biases in the knowledge they are helping to share?

HOW CAN YOU USE THIS RESEARCH?

Begin conversations in your network using the questions above. Ensure that the discussion brings up practical solutions people have used, or that might help. Some possible solutions might be to learning about anti-oppression frameworks. Host an anti-oppression workshop, yearly, in your organisation or network. Open dialogue about concerns with knowledge mobilises theory, frames, and tools. Sharing media and social media that challenge frequent basis within your specific field.

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Hilda Smith has a PhD in Critical Disability Studies, with a focus on the use of knowledge mobilisation within community spaces. Hilda is passionate about accessibility and inclusion, which are always an integral part of her work.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge mobilization, Community research, Knowledge brokers, Anti-Opression

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Innovation York's Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Unit is a national and international leader in knowledge mobilization. The KMb unit has a suite of activities that create connections between researchers and community and government organizations in order to support the development of research partnerships and dissemination of research results, as well as a suite of training tools to teach you how to develop and implement knowledge mobilization strategies. Contact us at kmbunit@yorku.ca

