

**Call to Bring People to Research:  
Community-Based Participatory Research  
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On 15 June 2010 a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Workshop was hosted by the University of South Africa's Institute for Social and Health Sciences (ISHS) and the Medical Research Council-University of South Africa Safety and Peace Promotion Research Unit (SAPPRU) in Cape Town.

Prof. Nina Wallerstein, a recognised leader in the area of Community-Based Participatory Research in the United States and beyond, shared her experience and expertise by facilitating a process that explored the possibilities and challenges of this research approach in the South African context. SAPPRU staff, community leaders and

researchers from the communities of Broadlands Park, Nomzamo and Railton in the Western Cape, and several academic associates, attended the workshop. In total 37 people were present.

Based on the goal of the workshop, which was to identify and discuss the advantages, challenges and strategies for conducting participatory research, the participants engaged in a process wherein they were able to weave together theory and practice of CBPR through various activities. These included a presentation by Prof. Wallerstein, an open discussion, sharing of views in response to a case story provided, and self-reflection on experiences of community research based on specific questions provided by the facilitators.

The workshop proved to be very interesting and practically useful to all who participated. It provided a unique opportunity for academics and community representatives to learn about research together - as equal partners. It is interesting to note that although every effort was made to create a common language and to draw on different knowledge-bases, these very important challenges remained present in this workshop. One of the ongoing challenges in CBPR is to find ways to honour and bring together different worldviews and approaches to science, including community-embedded knowledge and strategies. The ISHS and SAPPRU place this challenge high on their agenda, and are engaged in various efforts to address these issues.