

BOLD Ideas, ESSENTIAL Reading

Introducing the fourth edition with significant additions and updates and new supplementary materials for instructors

Community Organizing and Community Building for Health and Social Equity

EDITED BY MEREDITH MINKLER AND PATRICIA WAKIMOTO

"A fantastic book that provides extraordinary foundations for community engagement and mobilization in the pursuit of social justice. The voices from multiple scholars and community leaders invite us to embrace new ways of working for equity-focused systemic change in public health and beyond."

—Carlos E. Rodríguez-Díaz, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University

"This volume is a must have for those studying and practicing community building and organizing. It offers an abundance of voices and an array of approaches for those engaged in the difficult task of transforming communities to provide healthy and equitable environments. Leading scholars and organizers share their knowledge and insights—we all can learn from them."

—Louise Simmons, professor of social work, University of Connecticut

The fourth edition of *Community Organizing and Community Building for Health and Social Equity* provides both classic and recent contributions to the field, with a special accent on how these approaches can contribute to health and social equity. The 24 chapters offer conceptual frameworks, skill- building and case studies in areas like coalition building, antiracism practice, organizing by and with women of color, community assessment, and the power of the arts, the Internet, social media, and policy and media advocacy in such work. The use of participatory evaluation and strategies and tips on fundraising for community organizing also are presented, as are the ethical challenges that can arise in this work, and helpful tools for anticipating and addressing them. Also included are study questions for use in the classroom.

Many of the book's contributors are leaders in their academic fields, from public health and social work, to community psychology and urban and regional planning, and to social and political science. One author was the 44th president of the United States, himself a former community organizer in Chicago, who reflects on his earlier vocation and its importance. Other contributors are inspiring community leaders whose work on-the-ground and in partnership with us "outsiders" highlights both the power of collaboration, and the cultural humility and other skills required to do it well.

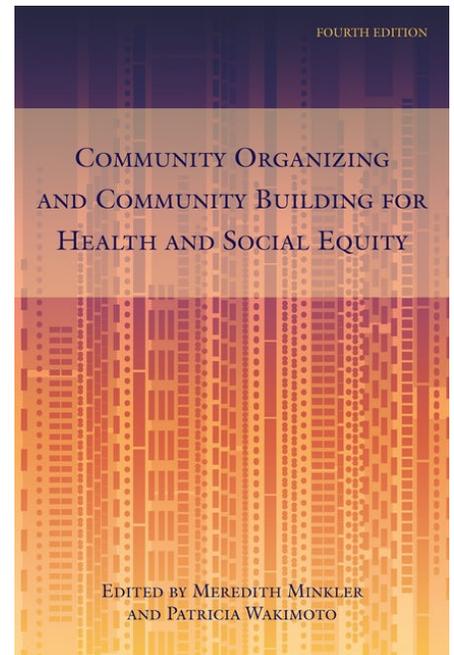
Throughout this book, and particularly in the case studies and examples shared, the role of context is critical, and never far from view. Included here most recently are the horrific and continuing toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a long overdue, yet still greatly circumscribed, "national reckoning with systemic racism," in the aftermath of the brutal police killing of yet another unarmed Black person, and then another and another, seemingly without end. In many chapters, other core issues of our times are underscored, including the existential threat of climate change, growing food insecurity, the democratic, health and civil rights of Black, Indigenous and other people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ people, youth, and other often disenfranchised groups. Discussed as well are movements for addressing these inequities, like Black Lives Matter, and major initiatives like Building Healthy Communities and creating a Culture of Health.

The book concludes with twelve appendixes including tools for community mapping and digital technology, community health indicators, exercises for critical reflection on our own power and privilege, a values-based methodology to guide practice, a "river of life" exercise to engage community members in creating a historical timeline, and tools such as power mapping for strategic analysis and planning.

MEREDITH MINKLER is professor emerita in community health sciences in the School of Public Health at University of California, Berkeley, and the founding director of the university's Center on Aging. A long time community organizer, she is the coauthor or editor of numerous books, including *Community-Based Participatory Research: From Processes to Outcomes* (with Nina Wallerstein).

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See a complete table of contents on the Rutgers University Press website. In addition to review questions at the end of each chapter, supplemental teaching materials will be available online by publication date.



440 pp, 10 tables, 6 x 9
9781978824744 paper \$36.95 ~~\$25.86~~
9781978824751 cloth \$80.00 ~~\$56.00~~
December 2021
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